

THE
VVARNINGS
OF
GERMANY.
BY

WONDERFVLL SIGNES,
and strange Prodigies seene in
divers parts of that Countrey of
GERMANY, betweene the
Yeare 1618. and 1638.

Together with a briefe relation of
the miserable Events which ensued.

LUKE 21. 25. &c.

*And there shall be signes in the Sunne, and in the
Moone, and in the starres, and upon the Earth
distresse of Nations with perplexitie. &c.*

All faithfully collected out of credible
High Dutch Chronicles, and other Histories
by L. Brinckmair Captaine.

As also a learned & Godly Sermon preached
before the Lords the States at Norrimberg.
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A
BRIEF DIS-
COURSE OF PRODI-
GIES, by way of Preface to the
Treatise following.

Section 1.

Most divine is that Axiome, God ^{*Beda inter*}
and nature do nothing in vaine. ^{*axiome.]*}
Nature is that constant order of ^{*Philos. ex*}
being and working, which God ^{*Arg.*}
hath appointed for the creatures.
where there is order, and that order constant,
and both determined by an infinite wisdom,
there must necessarily be some good end propounded
by the Ordainer, and all motions effectually for
accomplishment. Yet the course of Nature is sub-
ject to many alterations, because there is a
God above nature, who hath set bounds for the
creatures;

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creatures, but none for him save the counsell
of his will. Whatsoever the Lord pleases,
that doth hee in Heaven above, and in the
Earth beneath.^a

Psal. 135.

8

§ 2

*h Rom. 1.
20.*

Hereupon it followes, That even those
things which come to passe according to the course
of nature, are very considerable: because they are
effected according to Gods ordination. His invi-
sible power and Godhead^b may be seene in
them. Nothing is so small, but his providence
extends to it. *Præsentemque refert quælibet
herba Deum.*

In every tender grasse
God may be seene as in a glasse.

*Naturis est
maxima,
pertingere
quomodo remo-
tissima.*

Divine præscience were far from being, as in-
deed it is, all Infinite, did it not extend
it selfe to every accident. Nothing is or
moves, or suffers in any kinde, but in subordi-
nation to Gods eternall decrees, that his wise pur-
pose may be effected. And what is it which we
see or heare of in any of the creatures, which
affords not some morall and divine use? The
world is Gods great booke in Folio. Every crea-
ture is a severall page, in which we may reade
some instruction to further us in heavenly wise-
dome. *The Occasional Meditations of such as are
piously*

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piously devoted, give us sensible demonstration
 of this. Profane then, and irreligious are they
 that looke on the ordinary course of Gods pro-
 vidence, but never looke up to God in holy medita-
 tion. Whereas every thing wee see is like Iacobs
 Ladder. The foot of it is in earth, but the top
 is in Heaven. We should therefore looke beyond
 our senses, and use them as a prospective glasse,
 to see God through, that he may be brought nigh our
 hearts, though wee be farre from his glorious pre-
 sence. That Philosopher seemes to have had some
 secret inspiration from the almighty, who being as-
 ked wherfore man was made, answered, *coeli con-*
templandi gratia. For God indeede made us
 to study himselfe, and minde things above. Why
 was Adam put in Paradise? Onely to till the gar-
 den without taking other care, or pleasure? rather,
 that by imploying himselfe about the creatures,
 he might more distinctly meditate of every one to
 inflame his affections toward God. And what is it
 which affords no instruction? Toades, and such
 like, seeing man fly from them presently. A live-
 ly Emblem of lapsed mankinde, which cannot in-
 dure Gods presence, we being conscious to our selves
 that we are worthy of his hatred. Seeing poore
 wormes made by God in such a condition, that
 every foote may tread on them, and them with-
 out meanes to revenge or resist that hurt, we should

Apud 1.
 Arist. de
 an.

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hence learne humilitie, patience, and all subjection to the will of God. Every Cocke crowing is a lesson of Repentance. Every sound of a trumpet an Alarum to the last Iudgement. And every puffe of breath a Memento mori. For what is our life? it is even a Vapour, appearing for a little time, then vanishing. *Iam. 4. 14.*

§ 3

This supposed, it followes further. Those things which are more rare in the course of nature, divers, contrary, or above, are more then ordinarily to be thought upon. For of every such thing it maybe said, *Digitus Dei est hic*, God hath an immediate hand in them, they are for speciall use. Having therefore in the Treatise following the wonderfull things of God reflected to us as in a glasse, by an historicall gleaning together of some remarkable Prodigies which of late Teares have happened in Germany, with the Events which followed them, it will not bee superfluous to take something along with us in reading them, touching the nature, ends, and use which is to be made of such like, according to the Scripture. The rather because they are in themselves like the writing on the wall in *Beshazzars Palace*, which Sooth-sayers, Astrologians, and Chaldeans could neither understand nor read.

*Salut. 1573
ad Sp. 1571.
Pind.*

*A minori ad
maius.*

*Tal. 1573.
Adm. 1572.*

• Dan. 5. 8.

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reade. Who can reade Gods riddle, but they who
plough with his Heifer? None know what use
to make of his workes, but they who meditate of
them, according to his word, with the helpe of his
spirit. Hence it is though some are carefull in ob-
serving them, yet few have the happinesse to pro-
fit by them. Most men profanely disregard them,
being of Gallio's temper, carelesse of such mat-
ters. Some sughiously abuse them. Many onely
gaze, and wonder. Few know what they meane,
and therefore skip them over as unskillfull readers
use to doe sentences of Greeke and Latine which
they understand not. To remedy this in some part,
Here is my indeavour in hope of Gods blessing.
The worke of the Lord is great, sought out
of all them that have pleasure therein
Psalm. III. 2.

§ 4 •

If the question be what Prodigies are, the an-
swer may be, Signes and wonders wrought by
God immediately, or by others at his ap-
pointment, to signifie his pleasure aforehand
touching some speciall mercy or judgement
ensuing.

The Treatise calls them Prodigies, that is præ-
dictions or forewarnings. So much the word
implies. In Scripture phrase they are cal-
led,

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led *signes and wonders*, Joel (chap. 2. v. 38.) calls them wonders, St. Luke, chap. 21. 11) calls them fearefull sights, and great

Prodigia, quod pmo dicant, deest, futurap & dicant. Au. de Civ. Dei. lib. 21 cap. 8. Omnia quippe portenta contra naturam dicimus esse: Sed non sunt idem. c Zinch de epo. ib. Dei. lib. 3. cap. 18.

signes. St. Peter tearmes them, wonders in Heaven, and signes in Earth. Acts. 2. 21. Of signes some are to represent, Some for commemo-

ration, Some to assure, Others to prognosticate, whereof some be ordinary, others extraordinary. Prodigious be extraordinary prognosticating signes. They are also called wonders, not because they are all miracles in propriety; but because they seeme to bee, unto such as know not the causes and effects of them, and therefore cause wondring.

A miracle is that which happens besides the order of all nature, particular, and generall, For a stone to moue upward when it is throwne, is contrary to the particular nature of a stone, yet no miracle, because all things give way to violence. The hanging of Mahomet's iron tombe in the Ayre (if it bee, as it is reported) is no miracle, because it may be dranne up by vertue of some Loadstone above it. But everything is a wonder, whose cause we know not, or at least which wise men know not. Admiration alwaies rises out of some degree of Ignorance. There is therefore a difference betwixt a miracle and a marvell: 1 under the tearme of wonders; 3 Severall things be comprehended.

c Inter miracula & prodigia.

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1 Speciall rarities in the course of nature, and ^{Quæ sunt} in the actions and affaires of men^e; Secondly, mi-^{rara ipsa} racles properly so called. Thirdly, whatsoever it is ^{sunt mira} which makes the wiser or greater part of men to ad-^{Augu.} mire, as wel as fooler, however it be called. Al which are here included under the name of prodigies.

§ 5

Having briefly notified the meaning both of the name and thing in hand, the next thing most necessary is to consider of the author, who gives being to things prodigious, and appoints their use. ^{Novis omnia plena} That must needs bee God, who is the onely Alpha and Omega; The center from which all lines are drawne, and the circumference wherein they are terminated. All predictions, whether they bee naturall or supernaturall, must needs originally issue from him, that decrees things from eternity, and causes them to exist in time in all circumstances according to his appointment. This hath alwaies been out of controversie, not onely among Christians, but also among the Philosophers, yea even among the very Vulgar heathen. But though all have reference to God, yet not all alike. Some things bee either doth immediately, or at least wise seemes to doe, for both God, and nature are often clouded. Many things are effected by the Ministry of the Angells. Some proceed from

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from me, and the course of nature, yet notwithstanding God. Those things which are most common in the course of nature, are to bee counted Gods workes, and therefore much more those which are strange. God puts these Questions to Iob. Hath the raine a Father? or who hath begotten the drops of dew? Out of whose wombe came the yce? and the hoary frost of heaven, who hath gendred it? The answer to bee made is this, God giveth being to all these things according to his pleasure, what then shall be thought of raining blood, Fire, and such like? No otherwise then according to that, The Lord rained upon Sodom and Gomorrah, fire and Brimstone from the Lord out of Heaven^b. He threatens such beforehand, and he alone hath power to effect them. Therefore when we see or heare of any such thing, we can doe no lesse then acknowledge in the Psalmists words, This is the Lords doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes. Psal. 118. 23.

^a Iob. 38.
28. 29.

^b Gen. 19.
24.

§ 6

But how is it that signes and wonders are said to be wrought by false Prophets? for so Moses intimates^a And our Saviour sayes expressly, There shall arise false Prophets, and false Christs, and shall shew great signes and wonders And to like effect Paul speakes of Antichrist,
2. Thess.

^a Deut. 13.

^b Mat. 24.
24.

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2. *Theff. 2. 9.* We read also that many signes done before Pharaoh by Moses, were also done before him by the Magicians of Egypt.

No doubt but Satan and his Instruments are permitted to doe great things for the iriall of Gods Church and children, but in all they doe they are no more but instruments. Therefore that Fire wherewith Jobs sheepe and servants were consumed, is fully called the Fire of God, though the Prince of the Ayre was in that the Incendiary and the bellows, and added oyle to the flame. But Gods wonders and Satans differs very much. Oftentimes in the thing it selfe. * Satan seemes to worke miracles, but God workes miracles indeed.

Satan also makes a shew of doing many things which indeed hee doth not, deluding the outward senses and the the Phantasie. He alwayes lies against God or nature. Therefore well saith Moses, Who is like unto thee O Lord among the Gods ? who is like unto thee ? glorious in holinesse, fearefull in praise, doing wonders. ^c But in the ground and end there is alwayes a vast and manifest difference betwixt the one and the other. All that Satan does, is out of hatred, envy and malice, to God and man. But all that God doth is in mercy or Iustice. The plot which the Devill prosecutes in every particular, is to rob God of his glory, to make his

^c Exod. 7.
11.

^d Iob. 1. 16.

* Martinus
Biermanus,
de Magicis
Actionibus

^c Exod. 15.
11.

word

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word of none effect, and to frustrate the salvation intended for the Elect. Gods immutable purpose is to glorifie himselfe, to fulfill his word in all the promises and threatnings, and to save those whom he hath chosen in Christ. The one intends nothing but fraud and mischief, the other to approve his goodnesse even to them that wilfully perish. Satan labours to bring men into Heresie, superstition, and Idolatry, to blind their eyes, harden their hearts, and wholly to corrupt them in all their wayes. God would have all men come to the knowledge of the truth that they might be saved, 1 Tim. 2.4. if any desire to know how it may be knowne, which wonders be wrought by God especially, and which by Satan, let them consider, This is needlesse for us curiously to inquire after, and fruitlesse to be knowne. Our duty is to looke upon all good and evill as coming from God, as Iob did, saying, The Lord, hath given, and the Lord hath taken, &c. Shall wee receive good from the hand of the Lord, and not evill? And though some Prodigies be but rarities in nature, yet are wee to ascribe all to God, in as much as nature is his handmaid, and even of naturall things there is more to be made then a naturall use.

§ 7

As for the matter wherof Prodigies consist, that is worthy to be considered of, but warily to be determined

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mined, A confused Notion that some things are prodigious, without knowledge of the particulars, and whether it be good or evill that is portended, hath bred and nourished much curiositie and superstition, needlesse feares in some, fond hopes in others, there have anciently beene a sort of men who have made it their study and profession to teach what is ominous, and of what: such were the Sooth-sayers, Astrologians, Chaldeans, and the like. But the light of the Gospell hath made all these seeing starres to vanish. And yet still pride, curiositie, infidelity, like bitter rootes growing in the heart of mankinde naturally, leade them much what in the same way. Hence it is that almost every accident is by some counted a signe of good or evill lucke, according to our common phrase. To reckon up particulars in this kinde, would be both tedious and ridiculous.

But it must be granted that some things are Prodigious : true. And that some things are so in reference to particular persons, and families. Some to Countries, Nations, and whole States. This also cannot be denied, what is then the rule to know them by ? No vulgar conceit, no nor every pretended reason. Nor yet all manner of experience, so far as wee are to regard Prodigious. The Scripture is a sufficient rule. Therein we have multitude and varietie of examples that teach us

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teaches us to count of sinne as a certaine foretelling
 of divine vengeance, unless repentance intercept.
 And to take Repentance, Faith, Obedience, Piety,
 Justice, and Charity for assured pledge of Gods
 love and purpose of blessednes in every kinde.
 According unto these we are to regulate our hopes
 and feares. Humility is a speciall token of
 honor ensuing, and pride a forerunner of de-
 struction. ^a He that goes on in an evill way shall
 not prosper at the last, though the Sun, Moon
 and Starres should seeme to fall downe and
 worship him, as they did sometime to Ioseph.
 And he that feareth God, and escheweth evill may
 be confident that all shall worke together for the
 best, though Hell were for the present let loose
 upon him. Yea, though God himselfe should make
 a but of him to empty his quiver in. Foure hun-
 dred Prophets may say to Ahab, Goe up to Ra-
 moth Gilead and prosper. Yet Ahab falls
 there, for he had sold himselfe to worke wicked-
 nesse. Romes merchants will not believe her fall,
 but they shall certainly see and lament it. ^c Ba-
 bylon sayes I am, and none else besides me. I
 shall not sit as a widdow, neither shall I know
 the losse of children. But these two things
 (saith God) shall come to thee in a moment
 in one day, the losse of children and widdow-
 hood, they shall come upon thee in their
 perfection, &c.

^a Pro.

^b Gen. 27.
9.

^c Rom. 19.

Isa. 47. 8.
and 9.

In

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In sinning there be some circumstances which are more immediate harbingers of judgement, and so likewise many particular sinnes. Backsliding, as in Solomon. Presently bereupen God stirred him up adversaries. Rashnesse in things which require a waighy consultation, as in Rehoboam. Selfe-will, as in Iosias. Impudency, as in Absolon. But I had rather leave particulars to the studious Readers observation.

So on the other side humility, wisdom, patience, importunity in prayer, diligence in well doing doe more especially demonstrate Gods purpose to manifest his speciall mercy. But those pradi-
ons which we have now especially to consider, are of another sort.

§ 8.

To speake more fully of the Matter of Prodigies, in generall; I conceive it is some speciall accident happening by the providence of God. The things about which such accidents happen are diverse, and according to the difference thereof wee may count of 3. kinds of Prodigies, Naturall, Morall and Divine, *mat. 24. 21.*

Naturall are those speciall accidents which fall out in the particular or generall course of nature. Of which some are Celestiall, some Elementarie. Celestiall I call those which happen
about

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about the heavenly bodies. As about the Sunne, Moons or other Starrs. By Elementary I mean those which happen in the Elements themselves, or those things which are compounded of them. Morall Prodigies are those which consist in the affections, passions, words, or actions of men. Divine I call those wherein (*visum*) some divine impression is more conspicuous or necessarily to be acknowledged. For each of these kinds there is multiplicity of Instances to be had almost in all Histories, but it shall suffice me to particularise in some few out of Scripture.

* Qui potentiarum numerat multitudinem que historia gentium continentur.

Aug.

a Mat. 27.

45.

b Exod. 10

21.

Fiery Prodigies.

That extraordinary Eclipse which happened at our Saviours passion^a, at which the greatest Philosophers, that then were, much admired. The plague of darknesse in Egypt^b, and the apparition of Angells and heavenly visions, whereof we often read in Scripture, were Prodigies Celestiall. Of Elementary we have more variety of examples, The Fire which consumed Nadab and Abihur, That which fell from heaven on the Captaines and their companies, sent by Ahaziah to Elijah,^d The pillar of Fire which was for safe conduct to the Israelites in the night time^c. The fire & brimstone which fell on Sodom and Gomorrah. The Cherubims and flaming Sword which God placed before paradise.

^c Levit. 10. 2. ^d 2 Kings 1. 10. ^e Exod. 13. 21. 22. ^f Gen. 19. 24. ^g Gen. 3. 24.

The

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The cloudy pillar which was Israels guide by day. The Manna wherewith they were fed in the Airy-wildernesse. The plague of Haile in Egypt, That in the army of the Five Canaanitish Kings in Ioshua's time.

The dividing of the red Sea:

And of Jordan.

Watery.

Christs walking on the water,

Water issuing out of the rocke,

And out of the Jaw bone of an Ass.

Bitter Water becomming sweet by casting in Salt.

Earthquakes, Famine, Extraordinary fruitfullnesse, Excessive multitude of Birds, as of Quails, among the Israelites; or of Flyes, Beasts, or creeping things, as among the Plagues of Egypt, The strange peregrination of Creatures, from their wonted habitation, as the coming of the creatures into the Arke. Earthy.

These and many such like particulars are counted Prodigies, and for distinction sake naturall, because some thing in it selfe naturall, is the subject of them.

As for morall Prodigies that which is passed in the former Section shall suffice, because it is but a schedule that I have to write, and not a volume: for divine prodigies, so called in a more

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especiall

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especiall manner, these following are most apparent.

Isa. 38. 8. The Sun and Moone standing still as in Ioshua's time. The shadows going backe 10 degrees on Ahaz his Diall in Hezechiahs time. The new starres appearing at our Saviours birth. The rending of the vaile of the Temple, and the resurrection of dead bodies, at the time of his crucifying. &c.

These are sufficient to shew us what is to be counted prodigious, and what not. For all particulars we have no instance. Things new and strange may daily happen as God sees cause to conclude this part of the matter in hand, let this note suffice. Whatsoever happens extraordinarily and rarely to us or to any of the creatures, hath more or lesse of the nature of a Prodigie in it. Such was the strange fighting in the wombe of Rebekah, Nebuchadnezzars, Pharaohs, and Pilates wives dreames. The carriage and speech of Baalams Ass. The falling off of the Chariot wheelles of the Egyptians, as they drave in the red Sea. Dragons prostrating before the Arke.

Sufficient being spoken of the Matter, the next thing

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thing necessary to be touched is the forme, to shew what makes any speciall accident to be a Prodigie, that is (as I conceive) the aptitude which such accidents have in themselves, or by divine institution to portend the futurition or manifestation of something as yet not existent, or not knowne. As for example, Bloud happening extraordinarily in raine, in sweate, or in the use of bread or other. wise, doth fitly betoken warre, murder, execution of malefactors, or persecution. But how comes the Rainebow to be a signe the world shall never be overflowne againe by an Universall Inundation, whereas naturally it signifies raine. This it could not doe if God had not appoimed it for such an use. It may be demanded what I thinke of experience. If it be found by observation from time to time that after such an accident in one kind, such an event in another followes, may not that accident thenceforth be taken for a certaine signe of such an event to ensue? I answer, God is unsearchable in his wayes. No observation whatsoever will inable us to trace him. As the way of a ship in the Sea, or a Bird in the Ayre, so are Gods waies. Experience therefore is but an uncertaine guide, because the course of Gods providence is a perfect maze or Labyrinth. There is indeed no variance nor shadow of turning betwixt his will at one time, and

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his will at another. (I speake of his absolute will) Neither is there any difference betwixt his will in decree, and his will in deed, and hee often doth the same things over againe, for kind. Yet there is so much variety for circumstances, that it is impossible by al observation to conclude for certaine, from that which doth happen in one kind, to that which shall happen in another. This notwithstanding the argument from existence of the signe, to the futurition of the thing signified, concluding onely probably and indefinitely, cannot justly bee gainsaid: for instance, Thus to reason is very usefull. After a Comet or blazing starres appearing and vanishing, some great personages doe commonly expire.

Vide. Act. 17. Chron. 21. Gen. 22. 17. This experience out of many Histories confirms, Therefore such a comet now appearing, its likely some of the Gods of the Earth shall dye like men, and all of them have just cause more then ordinarily to prepare for death, especially such as Herod. But either matter calls me to it.

§ 10

Touching the small cause of prodigies, that is divers in divers respects. The common end is that God may be glorified by us in beholding his works, and

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and spelling out of them his infinite wisdom, ^{Ipsa nomi-}
 power, and goodnesse, whereunto ^{ni indica-} Prodiges con-
 duce no little, because they minister matter for an ^{finem rei.}
 invincible argument against an Atheist or Epi- ^{Monstra}
 cure; and strongly prove both God and providence. ^{sancti dicta}
 The proper end of them is either neare or remote, ^{perhibenda.}
 That which they serve for more immediately is ^{ministrando.}
 in generall, to intimate some change in the condi- ^{&c. Aug}
 tion of them, to whom they have reference: But ^{quo supra.}
 sometimes they serve to bring to light that which
 was hid, or to make that knowne which was secret;
 as when Satan appears for a time where some body
 lies buried in secret, and then vanishes, or when
 extraordinary trouble of minde falls on some, that
 thereby they may be brought to disclose some secret
 sin, the revealing whereof may tend to Gods glo-
 ry. Some of them doe more especially serve for
 comfort, some for terror. * Some serve to terrifie
 for a while, as the burning Bush, but leave comfort
 in the issue, as it did. And the Angells wonder-
 full behaviour in the presence of Sampsons pa-
 rents: some serve to strengthen the faith of Gods
 children in time of great discouragement; or when
 they are called to some special service: some serve to in-
 vite and call all, of all sorts, to repentance and a-
 mendment of life.

Those which serve to this end are in a
 more peculiar manner The Prodiges,

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and such are those which are instanced in, in the following History. Comfortable ones may happen to the wicked, and terrible to the godly, to harden the one, and humble the other. That the one may prepare for correction and profit by it, the other in Gods just judgement perish everlastingly. If the Question be when fearefull Prodigies happen in a Countrey where there be two contrary sides of different professions in religion how it may be knowne whether of them they concerne. I answer, the only necessary thing is, for each private person of what sort soever, whose abode is in such place, to take it to himself, and to examine his heart, wayes, and spirituall estate, that he may reforme himselfe according to the word of God, lest hee also perish. Many are too prone to cry woe unto others, but at last are forced to say (with him mentioned by Iosephus, where he speaks of the last destruction of Ierusalem.) woe unto mee also. God is not wont to send generall judgements, till all flesh more or lesse have corrupted their way: and therefore it behoues all of all sorts, howsoever different in the profession of religion to humble themselves, and study reformation really, not in pretence. * If they of Germany doe so, and then send out a dove from their Arke, she is likely to return with an Olive branch in her mouth. In the meane while so long as every one looking on his neighbour saies, Truth is on

* De cultoribus etiam
Deidaz par-
tes inter-
buc, et ter-
tia quum si-
cut Proba-
to, remanc-
bit. Last.
in lit. lib. 7.
cap. 16.

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my side, Thou art an hereticke, and therefore the destruction threatned is to thee, but I shall escape God that is no respecter of Persons finds just matter of offence in both, and on which side peace and Victory will rest, as touching sence is yet uncertaine. But wee know who they are that cry peace, peace, to themselves: that for temporall things dreame of a fifth Monarchie, and for Church affaires wouldaine force all to doe as they doe, that is, to put their Noses under the Popes girdle. And though here I digresse a little, I hope it will be pardoned.

§ II

As for those particular Prodigies which the History at hand makes mention of, the Reader may well admire at them, and happily revolve these questions in his minde. Whether there were such things as are here related. Whether they are truly Prodigious or no. Whether those Events here adopted to them were portended. Whether the like things have not happened elswhere without like effects or consequences, with more of likenature, if hee bee either cautious, or scrupulous, to al which I have onely this to answer. If any credit may be given to such Historicks of Germane affaires, as commonly fall into the hands of the learned, from Mercurius Gallo-Belgicus; it is certaine that Africa was not antiently more famous for Mon-

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sters then Germany hath for many yeares been
of Prodigies. The particulars hereafter memio-
ned make not a fourth part of what might be col-
lected in like kinde. And if Prodigies be taken
in a large sense, as they are here to be understood, the
matter doth well answer the title. But this must
needs be granted, this or that single prodigie may
happen, and yet no remarkable judgement follow.
For God may shake his rod oflen, before he strike
once. And many times he threatens, but to try. But
when Heaven and Earth, Sea, and Land did all
make one outcry, and strike up an Alarum, no o-
ther could be expected, but that God should march
on apace in fury after. It is but a generall intima-
tion of this or that Iudgement, what Prodigies doe
make necessarily. But what else could bee expected
but shedding blood on earth, when it rained
blood from heaven. Battailles in the Ayre were
most lively pictures of the same to bee on earth. So
that we may truly say, God wrote his minde in
most lively Characters, and hath punctually fulfil-
led what bee threatned. It seemes they were con-
fident of longer peace, or else God needed not to
have reade them so many Lectures of blood: what
particular Iudgements are signified by particu-
lar Prodigies may wel be guessed by the Prodigies
themselves: for my owne part I beleeeve, admire,
and adore, and shal wonder at him that can doe
lesse

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lesse. I doe every day expect the like and greater, because our Saviour hath so largely prophesied in this kinde in reference to our times, which all the Evangelists have recorded. The latter dayes shal bee short beyond expectation, and Christ come sooner then we are aware, and therefore the signes of his coming must needs bee expected, whereof strange Prodigies are one.

§ 12

And now hoping this may satisfie such as have any candor; its high time to draw the Arrow to the head, and hit the mark I shooe at, which is to point out the Christian use which godly feare and reverence teaches us to make upon the knowledge of these dreadfull things. To which end there are some cautions to be premised.

1 Seeing God is the author of Prodigies, wee must religiously observe them, and by prayer seeke from him instruction and grace, to fit us for a holy improvement of them to his glory and our own benefit; Saying as Paul, when Christ spake to him in a vision out of Heaven, Lord what wilt thou have mee to doe? And with prayer wee must joine all diligence in studying of his holy word, for thence it is that al necessary instruction is derived. Be we sure to make use of Prodigies according to this rule, and light will come out of darkenesse, comfort out of feare.

Second

The Preface.

Secondly we may not bee too curious in searching after the particular evils which Prodiges fore-shew, much lesse to know their circumstances, when, where, and how they shall happen. It is enough for us, and great mercy from God, that we have, aforesaid, so much as the noise of his coming to afflict. In the state of Israel, God was wont to threaten in the Fathers dayes those Judgements which hee purposed to their posteritie, and yet upon those threatenings, he expected present repentance, And surely that Memento given by Christ unto the Angell of Sardis, is necessary for every Church and state to apply unto themselves in these dayes: Remember how thou hast received, and heard, and hold fast and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thiefe, and thou shalt not know what houre I will come upon thee.

Rev. 3. 3.

Ier. 10. 2.

A third caveat is that, which God himselfe gives by the Prophet Jeremy, Learne not the way of the heathen, and be not dismaied at the signes of heaven. For the heathen are dismaied at them. Where 2 things are forbidden. The one is learning the heathens way, that is, to worship the creatures themselves, or to use any part of their Idolatrous service: The other is excessive feare upon the sight of all unpleasant aspects in the heavenly bodies, without any true feare of God who causes

The Preface.

causes them; and in whose hand it is to hasten or
 prolong, increase or diminish, or totally remove all
 threatened evils. The grosser sort of ancient Idola-
 ters thought the Sun, Moone, and other starres Ezech. 3.
 to be Gods, and Eclipses and such like to be signes
 of their anger, whereupon they feared exceedingly
 unto astonishment, and addicted themselves by
 divers rites and ceremonies to pacify them. Many
 times the Israclites were much subiect to like Ido-
 lury, against which God thereto instructs them.
 This place therefore does not condemne all feare upon
 the sight of prodigies, as unlawfull, but the abuse
 of feare, when it is placed on the creature, not on
 God, and leades not to true piety, but to will worship.
 Or when it so captrivates, that we thinke it in vaine
 to seeke God by repentance, and doe hereupon despise
 him, and harden our hearts, and commit all in-
 quity with greedinesse. Of all things such a feare
 is most to be feared. As for such whom a lively
 faith hath incorporated into Christ, and a true
 feare of God in his iudgements, made penitent
 and obedient according to Gods word, Prodigies
 should rather comfort them, then otherwise. Joel
 having said in one verse, The Sunne shall bee
 turned into darknesse, and the Moone into
 blood, before the great and terrible day of
 the Lord come, saith immediately in the next
 verse, It shall come to passe that who soever
 shall

The Preface.

Luke. 21.
31.

shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. For in Mount Sion and in Ierusalem shall be deliverance. *Our Saviour speaking in like manner of the Prodigies which shall happen partly before the destruction of Ierusalem, but especially before the end of the world, and of the feare which shall be in many, said to his disciples, When these things begin to come to passe, then looke up and lift up your heads, for your redemption draweth nigh, Christ the accomplisher & finisher of it. Thus much for caution.*

§ 13

Now for the uses themselves, who will not hereby be assured of a generall judgement comming on apace, seeing these forerunners of it. I speake both of the Prodigies, and of the things which follow and accompany. The order of the signes of the latter day is this. First false Prophets. Many shall be deceived. Iniquity shall abound. Secondly, persecution, and by meanes thereof Apostacy in some, great misery to others. Then Warres, Famine, Pestilence, Prodigies, interchangeably, till false Prophets, and al deceived by them be rooted out of the earth. And as touching warrs, judgement must begin at the house of God. Therein false Prophets arise, as

AGs. 20.

Paul saies, from among your selves &c. Their rising is like the opening of Pandoraes box, the original of alevil. And certainly the churches negligence in not convincing them by doctrine, and suppressing them by discipline in the particular Churches wher-

The Preface.

in they first appeared is the corner stone of all, and therefore it is for gods churches should be first in the course of Judgement, who are first in the course of sinning. The third course of signes which are now most conspicuous shall continue till the first error be discovered and amended, and that evill which it hath brought in be removed, I meane particular Churches be rightly stated, and faithfull in administration of all publicke Ordinances, &c.

§ 14

In the meane while for a second use, let every one of us learne hence, To search and try our waies, and turne unto the Lord our God, lest our securitie prove prodigious unto us. Bewe more carefull to know Gods will, and so profess that we know, and live according to our profession; in one or other of these specialties we all faile. Yea wherein is it that we faile not? see the state of the seven Churches of Asia, as St. Iohn describes it, and I feare whatsoever is reprov'd in all them together, will be found among us, but little of that which they are commended for. Were it not that God is iealous of his own honour, and (in his own phrase) feares the wrath of the enemy, lest our adversaries should behave themselves strangely, and say, our hand is high, the Lord hath not done this, we also ere this time had felt the effect of many prodigies which have beene among ourselves. But I hope God will shortly stirre up some in a more especiall manner, to bring Gods

Deut. 32.

27.

The Preface.

wonders among us in remembrance. This for the present may serve something to awaken us. And if we regard neither the voyce of God on earth, by his Ministers, nor the voyce of God from heaven by his wonderous workes, though Noah, Job, and Daniel were among us, they shall deliver but their owne soules. God must deny himselfe, or we perish if we continue impenitent. The name of reformation which we have in our mouthes, will no more helpe us then the Jewes crying. The Temple of the Lord, We be Abrahams children. In many abuses there is not so much as a colour of reformation, as in the matter of sacrifice for one. It was after Iosiah had reformed many things, that his heart was tender, and smote him upon hearing of the Law. Perceiving thereby there were yet more abuses in the Land than he at first was ware of. Antichrist had made all places like Augean stables. They doe therefore surely neede a continuall cleansing. The God of all grace fill us according to our measure with wisdom and zeale, that we may grow from beauty to beauty in his eyes.

§ 15.

And seeing God is so gracious, as by all means to manifest himselfe and his intended judgement, he hath not left himselfe without witnesse, but we
are

The Preface.

are altogether without excuse. Let him have the
praise which is due unto his name, who abounds to-
ward us in all means of grace, whereby we might
be made wise unto salvation. Thy Word, O Lord,
is sufficient of it selfe to warne all the World. Thy
Workes are the utmost that we can aske or thinke:
what shall we say of thy wonderous Workes from
day to day! Oh thou holy one of Israel. All this is
that thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, Rom 3. 4.
and overcome when thou art judged. It will
be thy glory that thou hast shewed us signes in Heaven
above, and wonders in Earth beneath; But it will
be our misery if we regard them not, or if regar-
ding we doe not blesse thee the Almighty, or if
blessing thee in words we repent not and amend. Of
our selves we are able to doe none of all this. Let it
not alwayes be said of us as it was sometime of thy Deut. 29. 4
people Israel, Yet the Lord hath not given you
a heart to perceive, and eyes to see, and eares
to heare unto this day. For thy Annoynteds sake
poure upon us thy spirit, give us hearts according
to thine owne heart, and cause us to walke in thy
wayes. Truth Lord, thou mayst leave us to our
selves, and let us perish: if thy Grace were not free
for thee, to bestow or not, it were no grace. If thou
sayest, I have no pleasure in you, doe to us as seemeth
good in thy sight. Yet be pleased to remember thy
Covenant. And for his sake who hath sealed it
with

The Preface.

with his bloud poure out his spirit among us.
 Worke knowledge in our minds, submission in our
 wills. Yea sanctify us we beseech thee throughout.
 Oh love us, and cause us to love thee, and then wee
 know assuredly that all things shall worke together
 for the best, Amen.

If any thing offend thee Christian Reader
 in this Prologue, consider herein I tread an
 unbeaten path, wherein it is easie to erre. The
 way it selfe is rough, my spare houres for such
 imployment few. Importunity of others, and
 arguments drawne from the publicke good,
 have stollen mee from my selfe to doe others
 service in this businesse. If it seeme strange
 I make so much a doe to usher in a small
 Pamphlet, consider not the book, but the sub-
 ject. In Prodigies God comes in, as *riding on*
a Cherub, and flying on the wings of the wind. How
 then can just exceptions be taken at one for co-
 ming before to cry * *Bow the knee* ? my bold-
 nesse pardoned I am content to beare all other
 blame.

* Gen. 44.
 43.

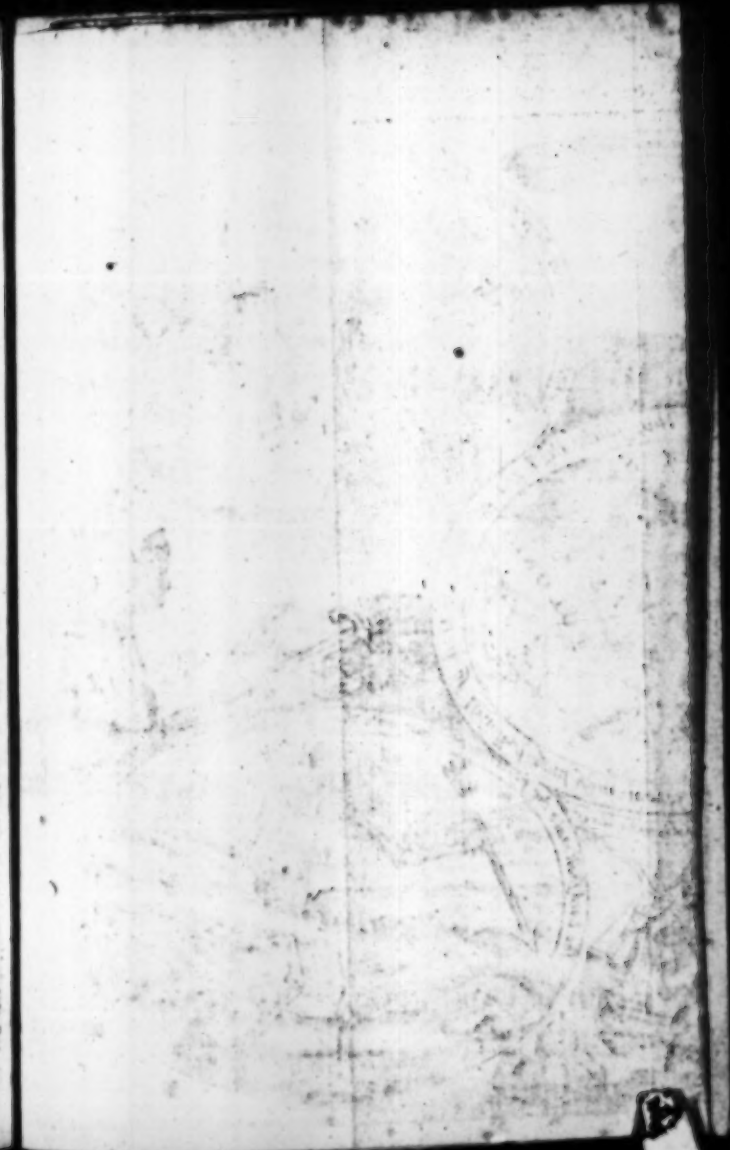
In Magnis est voluisse Satis.

Errors in the Preface.

In the first Sect. 1. Axiona. a. for him 1. himselfe. In 2. Sect. them-
 him for fooler. foore. 3. Sect. for tuspiciously 1. superstitiously, for
 predicant 1. predicant. 5. Sect. for No is in mat. 1. Iovis so. mer. men
 in 7 Sect. for pledge 1. pledges. in mat. rom 1. revel. for pedient 1.
 predictions. in the 11. Sect. 1. which are ad. pred.

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How long O Lord, how long wilt thou



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**DREADFULL, AND
PRODIGIOUS ASPECTS WHICH**
have happened, and appeared in the
Ayre, Water, and on Earth, beyond the com-
mon course of nature, in diverse parts of
Germany, since the beginning of these late bloody

boyles in that Country, from the yeere of our Lord, 1618.

to this present time; together with briefe
observations of the issues, and con-
sequences ensuing after this.



Among the many troubles, and
turnnoyes (*Courteous Rea-
der*) which have long time
roved, and raged not onely
in *Bohemia*, but also in
divers other places of
Germany, there appeared
a terrible Comet with a The bla-
great blazing tayle, which zing Starr

was as terrible as visible.

It appeared first, October, 26. 1618. in the
signe of *Scorpio*, and the tayle thereof was exten-
ded betwixt the *Spica virginis*, and *Arcturus*, to-
wards

21
Prodigies of Germany.

veritas Polus Septentrionalis. Afterwards it went
its progresse in *Signo Libra*, continuing its course
from the *Ecliptica* to *Topico Canceri*, from East to
West, or Northerly. It was to be seene, often
in a cleare Skie, in the East: In *Bohemia* and
Austria, it appeared, at first, with red; in o-
ther places with a Saturnish pale-red colour, for
the space of 27. dayes, and in some places longer.
This fearefull, & ominous Link or Torch the Omni-
potent *Iehovah* had constituted, and ordained in
the Pulpit of the Heavens to bee a Preacher of
Repentance; that sinfull man might see, and dis-
cerne, that for incorrigible sinne he was resolved
to plague and punish them if they timely prevented
not the threatned danger, by seeking grace, and
speedily fying from sinne the sole cause thereof.
For in as much as the secute, and hood-winked
World had long despised, and neglected the gra-
cious reclaiming voyce of his sacred Word, in the
publike preaching thereof by his vigilant and di-
ligent Ministers, and refused to heare those char-
mers, charme they never so wisely, running on in
their accustomed course of sinne, and transgres-
sion, refusing to be reclaimed, and living all their
dayes in sensuall impenitence, as if God regarded
not their doings, and tooke no notice of their
desperate rebellions; Therefore the Almighty
Lord God, as mercifull, as just, sent forth these his
prodigious signes, in the Sunne, Moon, and Starres
of Heaven, as certain fore-runners of his wrath,
and of imminent, and eminent Plagues and punish-
ments on them, if not speedily prevented, thus
(if it were possible) to awaken men from their
even

Prodigies of Germany. \

even dead sleepe of sin, to timely repentance, and true reformation of life; but otherwise to shew and assure them that he would come suddainly, and severely upon them, and bring all those evills, and miseries on them, which those hideous, and horrible signes did portend unto them. Of which his proceeding in former ages manifold examples are extant, both in the sacred Scriptures, and in other various, and voluminous Histories, which, for brevities sake, I heere of purpose pretermitt. This Comet herein mentioned hath bin indeed a certain harbinger, and fore-runner of the Lords high indignation, and future punishments, wherewith (since it appeared) the secute world hath bin soundly whipped, and severely corrected (yea the great Miseries and Calamities, which poore dilacerated *Germany* hath, since its appearance, felt and found, are as unspeakable, as deplorable, hardly to bee lively delineated by mans tongue or pen. For that is now complearly (if not too fully) effected, which is spoken of in Comets, that never did a Comet appeare, which was not accompanied with much evill and miserie. And *Claudianus* the Poet writ thus of their operations.

*Bellacantum, ignes subitofq; tumultus,
Et clandestinis surgentia fraudibus arma,
Civiles etiam motus, cognataq; bella
Significant. ——— Thus englished.*

They shew fierce wars, fire, sword & suddain broyles,
And by clandestine craft, fast springing toyles,
Uncivill-civill jarres, and home-bred flames
They signifie, &c.

Prodigies of Germany.

Pontanus also writes thus of them.

Ventorum quoq; certa dabunt tibi signa Cometa

Etiam belli motus, feraq; arma minantur;

Magnorum & clades populorum, & funera Regum.

Comets are certaine signes of future things, (Kings
Threatning fierce Warres, much blood, and death of

Of the estate, & couitio of this our present Comet
ancient Astrologians have thus written.

Verba docent, et signa moneant, et poena probabit,

Ni subito in melius vitam convertimur, attineat.

Words teach, signes preach, and punishment: make
That want of true repentance proves our bane. (plain,

Which altogether the following yeers being fulfilled & verified, is notable to all the Christian world to take warning by: and to declare the misery we (after this appearing blazing Comet) Germany felt, would require many volumes. How many fruitfull Countries, Dominions, and Territories are through these last warres totally ruinated; the Cities, Towns, and Villages therein spoiled, and made pillars of fire and smoke; the Churches lying desolate, the woods being cut down, the earth untilld, and lying white. The bloody and cruell dealing of inhumane soldiers, especially of the *Crabats*, in many goodly Townes and Cities, is scarce credible, which furiously have plundered the places, torturing the Inhabitants most barbarously; ravished women even to death; powred dunghill-water and vinegar into the throats of men and women; tyed chains and cords about their heads, and have twisted them so hard, that they have fallen down dead upon the ground; some are hanged up by the privy members

lawes

sawed off the legs of some, rubbed off the flesh from the legs of others to the very bones; tyed the armes of others backwards, and so hanged them up by those distorted parts; drew many through the streets of the Cities stark naked, brake and wounded them with axes and hammers, and generally used them with such barbarous cruelty, that many begged to be shot or slain instantly, rather than to live, and be partakers of such misery. Some they have roasted alive, and sacked the Cities miserably, that they spoiled what they could not carry away. All the corn and provision of victuals, have they taken away with them, and left the places so bare, that many of the best rank, for the space of 8. dayes after, saw not one bit of bread, but were glad to feed upon roots and water: spoiled the Inhabitants of their garments, exposed them to that nakedness, that neither man, woman, nor childe have had clothes to put on. No man indeed can be ignorant of the miserable condition of all *Germany*. No man can think of it without a sorrowfull heart: none that hath not put on the Stoicks stupidity, can heare it without compassion. Such civill warres were never without strange prodigies, and this as in the beginning it was threatned by this said Comet, so in the continuance the uncouth condition thereof was still made apparent by those strange things, which happened out of the common course of Nature, which I shall endeavour to declare, as followeth.

Anno 1619. in the moneth of *December* the water which doth runne through *Sixto* a Citie in *Hungaria* (where in the year 1588. an exceeding great battell was fought betwixt the *Turks* and *Christi-*

Water and
ice turned
to bloud.

ans) turned to bloud, and the ice therein was likewise bloud-red, which at many places was transported. This perhaps hath been a fore-runner of the bloody encounters and skirmishes, which happened afterwards 1621. in the same places and therabouts, betwixt the Imperialists and *Bethlem-Gabor* Army, where *Bethlem-Gabor* fought a bloody battell against the Imperialists under Generall *Bucquoy*, and rowted their whole Army, and put to the sword above 2000. of them upon the place. About Midsummer, Anno 1620. another hard conflict happened neere the Citie *Sixro*. where *Bethlem-Gabor* left 600. men: and on the Imperiall side some 400. amongst which was the Marquis *Palavuzino* an Imperiall Commander.

Prodigies of Germany.

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B A

Prodigies of Germany.



Prodigies of Germany. •

In the same moneth *December*, Anno 1619. at *Groningen* in the Dukedome of *Brunswick*, appeared a great blazing *Starre*. and two Armies, one in the East, the other in the North, fighting against each other in the Heaven, so long till the Army of the North was slaine and defeated. This issued out, Anno 1626. the 25. of *August*, where few leagues from this place a sore battell was fought betwixt the King of *Denmark* and the Imperiall Generall *Tilly*, in which the King lost the field, and 4000. of his Army were slaine and taken prisoners: amongst them were also slaine 4. Danish Colonels, and a Landgrave of *Hessen*. Of the Imperialists lost their lives some 3. or 400. upon the place. We will not speak much of another conflict, which happened in the same Dukedome, when the fore-mentioned *Starre* was seen. where 500 were slaine upon the place neere *Calenberg*; nor of the bloody massacre, done by the Imperialists in the Citie of *Munster* in the said Dukedome, where 2500. Citizens and Souldiers were put to the sword most miserably by the Imperialists, the 27. of *August*, Anno 1626.

Two Armies fighting in the heavens

At *Wien* in *Austria*, the water in the Ditch was to bee seene like blood for the space of 8. dayes: likewise 3. Rainbowed appeared, and 7. Sunnes in the Heaven, in the beginning of *April*. Anno. 1619. here in the same place, and City, and in the same yeere, the 25. of *October* a great, and bloody fight was at the *Donaw*-bridge in the same Towne of *Wien*, betwixt the *Bohemians* and Generall *Bucquoy*: in which encounter were slaine on the Imperiall side 4500. and of the *Bohemians* some 1000. and a great many wounded, which were

Three Rainbowed and three Sunnes appearing in the heavens.



Prodigies of Germany. •

9

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Two Armies fighting in the heavens.

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Three Rainbowed and three Sunnes appearing in the heavens.

were brought with Waines into the Hospitals of *Wien*.

Anno 1620. about the moneths of *April* some strange signes, and prodigies of future misery appeared in *Polonia*: where it rayned blood, in so much that the drops of them fell abundantly downe from the tops of the houses, whose signification not long after was this; that the *Tartarians* with an Army of 40000. men invaded *Polonia*, with such cruelty. as is scarce credible, killing in one place more then 3000. of the *Polonians*. Likewise in the same yeere the grand *Turke* with 90000. men falling into *Walstady* had a bloody encounter with 12000. *Polonians* under the leading of the great Chancellour of their Kingdome, who himselfe with the whole *Polonians* Army was slaine, very few of them escaping.

Anno. 1621. in the month of *March* happened a terrible prodigy in *Austria*, where two Armies were to be seene in the Heaven by eleere day light, fighting Battells together with great thundering of Ordnances, and Canons. In the same Country, *Anno*. 1623. in the moneth of *January* at *Lintz*, just over the City two Swords standing against another, and two strong Armys fighting a pitch Battell together, were seene, and observed by the inhabitants, with great terror, and heaviness. This City of *Lintz* in the yeere 1626, was besieged, and many times assaulted by the *Austrian* Boores, but were beaten off with losse of 500. men. These Boores many thousand strong falling upon some Imperiall forces under

the conduct of Duke *Adolff* of *Holftein*, routed and defeated them utterly, the rest being glad to runne away. This was afterwards revenged by *Pappenheim*, who with an Army of 8000. Horse and Foot came against them, putting to the Sword 3000. of them upon the place, and tooke many prisoners, who afterwards were executed in the same City of *Lintz*.

At *Prage* and *Heidelberg* the 5. of *February*, Anno 1622. were seene three Sunnes and three Rainbowes, a sharpe conflict happened before this City of *Prage* in the beginning of *January* Anno 1632. betwixt the Imperialists and the Saxons, under the *Baron* of *Hofkirsh*, who defeated 900. *Crabats*, and tooke 11. Cornets of them, 3. Ensignes, and almost every man of the Imperialists were cut in pieces by the Saxons before the gates.

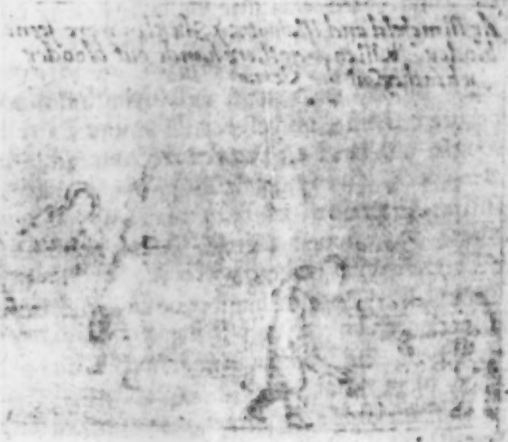
Concerning *Heidelberg*. the seate and the chiefest City in the *Palatinat*, the same Towne was by the Imperialists for a long time besieged, assaulted, and at the last taken by force, with great losse and slaughter of the inhabitants. *Neckergemund* a lesser Towne, 3. English miles from *Heidelberg*, was likewise the same time, Anno 1622. surprised by the Imperialists by furious assault, wherein the Garrison, doing some resistance against them, with the inhabitants, both men, women and children, were put to the Sword.

Anno 1634. in *July* was also the City of *Prage*, by the Saxons, and Swedes, besieged; which by the space of 3. dayes plyed upon the Towne with Canons, and were replied unto from

from thence in the like kind, with great loss on both sides; 900. men of the Saxons, and Swedes, being slain: of the Imperiall Garrison within, consisting of 1400. men, under the command of both the Generalls, *Colorado*, and *Don Balthasar*, 600 lost their lives.

Leaves of
Trees
drop
blood.

In the month of *April*, Anno 1622. in the Country of *Darmstadt* were found Trees, whose leaves dropt blood. This Country afterwards in the same yeere was grievously invaded both by the Imperiall, and *Spanish* Army, as well of Count *Manfeld*, as Duke *Christian* of *Brunswick*; many bloody encounters and skirmishes happened betwixt them; and especially a fore Battell was fought not farre off betweene Duke *Christian* of *Brunswick*, and Generall *Tilly*, whose Army consisting of 22000. of Foot, and 140. Cornets of Horse, continued a great fight for the space of 6. houres with Duke *Christian* at *Hochst*. But the Imperialists more in number beate the others, and dispersed them, which flying to the Bridge, so thronged, and wedged in one another, that a great many were thrust into the River *Man*, wherein as many were drowned, as were killed in the Battell.



At Minesfeld and Malantzsh Shikles were serue
bloodey & Men drew there hands out bloodey
when they Cut the Corne



Anno. 1623. about Midsummer many bloody signes and aspects appeared in divers Countries, and places. In *Bohemia* in the County of *Podybras* a well for some dayes was turned to blood. At *Turfin* a Towne 3. or 4. leagues from *Egra*, in a Citizens house, the table, the wall of the par-
 ler, and the chaires sweated blood, in so much that it began to runne in the parler. What bloody encounters happened in the next, and other yeeres in those places, is too well knowne; where 4000. of the *Bohemians* under Count *Mansfeld* were slaine: some 300. of the *Imperialists* not long after lost their lives also by the Sword: 5. troopes of the Elector of *Saxonyes* Horses, lying then at *Rakonick* in *Bohemia*, were at once knockt downe by the *Imperialists*; scarce 120. of them escaping with their lives. What if we should remember the bloody tragedy acted by the *Imperialists* at *Egra*, where the *Imperiall* Generalissimo Duke of *Friedland* himselfe, with 4. others chiefe Commanders, was murthred, and massacred the 25. of February, Anno 1634.

In the Territories about the *Rhine*, and *Hessen Darmstad* in this 1623. yeere, in divers Townes, and Villages, were seene bloody signes and tokens, on houses, stones and walls: how prodigious this hath beene at *Mingelheim*, where 2000. of the *Imperialists* were put to the Sword by Count *Mansfeld*, the wayes side by the River *Rhine* towards *Germerheim* being strewed with their dead bodies. Also next yeere following in a Battell at *Wimpfen* betwixt Generall *Tilly*, and Marquis of *Darlich*, 5000. were slaine upon the place. In the

A Well turned to blood.

The Parler walls table, and chaires sweate blood.

Bloody signes seene on houses, & walls.

At Minefeld and Malantz Shikles were serue
bloodey & Men drew there hands out bloodey
when they Cut the Corne



Anno. 1623. about Midsummer many bloody
signes and aspects appeared in divers Countries,
and places. In *Bohemia* in the County of *Podybras*
a well for some dayes was turned to blood. At *A Well*
Tursin a Towne 3. or 4. leagues from *Egra*, in turned to
a Citizens house, the table, the wall of the par- blood.
ler, and the chaires sweated blood, in so much The Par-
that it began to runne in the parler. What bloo- ler walls
dy encounters happened in the next, and other tab'e, and
yeeres in those places, is too well knowne: where chaires
4000. of the *Bohemians* under Count *Mans- sweate*
feld were slaine: some 300. of the Imperia- blood.
long after lost their lives also by the
troopes of the Elector of *Saxony*
then at *Rakonick* in *Bohemia*, were
downe by the Imperialists; scarce
escaping with their lives. What
remember the bloody tragedy acted
at *Egra*, where the Imperiall
uke of *Fridland* himselfe, with 4.
Commanders, was murthred, and
25. of February, Anno. 1634.
territories about the *Rhine*, and *Hoffen*
ad in this 1623. yeere, in divers Townes,
and Villages, were seene bloody signes and tokens, bloody
on houses, stones and walls: how prodigious this signes
hath beene at *Mingelheim*, where 2000. of the seene on
Imperialists were put to the Sword by Count houses, &
Mansfeld, the wayes side by the River *Rhine* to- walls.
wards *Germerheim* being strewed with their dead
bodies. Also next yeere following in a Battell at
Wimpfen betwixt Generall *Tilly*, and Marquis
of *Durlach*, 5000. were slaine upon the place. In
the

the month of January, Anno 1632. the Swedjs Generall *Rhingrave* taking the Towne of *Kinckberg* by assault, put to the Sword 147: Imperialists, and *Spaniards* therein. Not long after the *Rhingrave* in another occasion lost 300. of his men by the *Spaniards* Sword.

Stekles in
the Field
bloody.

About *Meyersfeld* and *Malantz*, the Sickles, and the hands of the labourers in the Meadows were seene bloody. What cruelty, and shedding of blood by the invasion of the *Spaniards* in those places afterwards hath beene, would require a large relation; where the Inhabitants, without respect of Sex or condition, have beene miserably massacred. This is notable amongst other cruelties there committed; The *Spanish*, and Imperiall Army coming from the *Rhine*, passed by *Gall* into those parts, Anno 1635. where the Catholikes to secure themselves from being made a prey unto them, marked their dwelling houses with the signe of the Crosse, then thinking themselves as secure from injury from that Army, as *Rahab* was by hanging the scarlet thread at her window, from the victorious Sonnes of *Jacob* at *Iericho*; or *Israel* by striking the blood of the pascall Lambe upon their posts, and lintels, from the destroying Angell. But as the grounds of their hopes were most different; So the issue was most unlike. These were the first which felt the effects of their insolency, being pillaged, and murdered without distinction of age, sex, calling, or place; men and women in religious orders being forced in their Monasteries, and an Agent sent unto them from the States of the Province, precipitated

pirated by them from an high Rock.

In the Dukedome of *Wirtemberg* at *Herbrechtingen* and *Hermeringen*, the 16. of *July*, Anno 1622. it rayned so much blood, that it fell upon the hands, and cloaths of the labouring men, and was to be seene upon Trees, Stones, and other places in the fields. How many thousands of the Inhabitants of that Dukedome in those last warres, and especially after the Battell, and in the Battell of *Norlingen* have lost their lives, is too well known to the Christian World: in which bloody Battell how many thousands on both sides were slayne, no man had certainty of it. Amongst which were many brave Colonels, and chiefe Commanders, as the Marquesse of *Auspach*, 5. Colonels, divers Capitaines, and Officers all dead in the bed of honour. Anno 1634. the 24. of *Aug*.

It rayned blood.

The 26 of *December*, Anno 1624. for the space of 10. or 11. houres it was observed in *Bohemia*, that the Sunne was changed first in divers colours; at the last fiery beames came forth out of the Sunne, which for a time held their opposition against the Sunne, then they went away, and vanished like a smoake in the Ayre, and at last fell downe with a noyse like Rackets. Two dayes before, in *Silesia* happened an horrible prodigie, as if two Armies in the ayre continued a great fight and skirmish against one another. How many skirmishes and conflicts have fallen out in these two Countries the yeers following, is needlesse to remember: remarkable alone is the siege of the Citie of *ranckford* upon the borders of *Silesia*, which the King of *Sweden* took in by assault, Anno 1631.

Fiery beames: coming forth of the Sunne stand in opposition to it.

to the terrour and slaughter of 2000. Imperialists, which were cut in pieces upon the place, besides those that were drowned, and others found dead in Cellars, Chambers, and elsewhere; as many more perchanee. 300. Swedes also there staine, and 100. hurt. At *Lansbergen* in the front of *Silesia*, 300 *Swedish* souldiers, over-confident of their valour, were put to the sword by the *Crabass*: which Town the King the 15. of *April* took in by assault, with slaughter of 300. Imperialists: but of his own men no lesse then 600. lost their lives. In this time at *Cressin* in *Silesia*, 200. Imperialists attempting the recovery of the same Towne, were slain by the *Swedes*.

An Ancient in red habit seen in the air: also a chariot with 2. horses, an infinite number of men.

A strange prodigic in the heaven happened at *Gierslet* in the Dukedome of *Anhalt* the 12. of *May*, *Anno* 1624. which continued from 6. till 8. clock at night, and was observed by the inhabitants of the same Town in this manner. First of all came forth out of the clouds an Ancient, with a red *Hungarian* habit: after him followed some grave men clothed in the like habit. Thirdly, came forth a Chariot with two horses of divers sprinkled colours, and another Chariot with foure armed horses. Suddenly did breake out of the clouds an infinite number of people, like a swarme of Bees, with such aforesaid *Hungarian* habit, and with *Hungarian* hats upon their heads with great Feathers. After them followeth a man sitting upon horse-back, with a great long robe, putting the people before him. After this did follow a Comet, *iuxta aquilonem* with inclining head. A quarter of an houre after came forth another Army, consisting of many horses, and foot, and

and Chariots, having hoods of broad rands with Feathers. In the midst of the Army appeared a man alone, drawing before him a long red crosse; before which hee made some prayers with extended hands. These the following Army presently rowed and defeated. All these Forces marching towards the Townes of *Aldersleben*, *Hirshleben*, and turning at the last towards *Sanderleben*; with red clouds oppressed vanished away. The day before it rained blood at *Wensham* in *Bohemia*; and likewise two Armies appeared in the aire skirmishing together. This portentuous prodigie issued out perhaps in the bloody battell which was fought at *Desfau* bridge, in the same Dukedome of *Anhalt*, the 17. of *Aprill*, Anno 1626. where Count *Mansfield* came with his Army before the Imperiall Sconce, against which he cast up 3. Batteries, from whence he night and day thundred upon the Imperialists. But the Duke of *Frieland* coming to succour the Imperialists, utterly defeated the *Mansfieldish* Forces, whereof were slain 3000. upon the place: amongst them 3. Colonels, and other Officers. Of the Imperialists 1000. also slain. The day before that the prodigie happened at *Giersleb*; it rained blood about *Friedberg* in *Silesia*, and two Armies also appeared in the heaven fighting for a long time together. Three years after happened a bloody encounter about the same place, where the Towne of *Friedberg*. For the Duke of *Frieland* sending Colonell *Pechman* with 7000. Horsemen and Dragooners to pursue the *Danish* and *Weimarish* troops, there began a sore fight betwixt the, where at the last all the *Danish* forces were ruinated and killed, 10.

Companies of them taken prisoners, the Imperiall Commander *Pechman* himselfe, with divers other Officers slaine.

A strange
Tempest.

Anno. 1624. the 8. *May*, a strange Tempest happened at *Ratisbon*, full of admiration. When there was a great calme with a little raine, two darke Clouds met together, which sodainly belched out a wind intermingled with fire, and raised such a Tempest, as hath not bin knowne in the memory of man. It was first perceived neere the Wood before the City, where it tore up the Trees by the roots, and, as in a moment, drave them to divers places; and thence extending it selfe to the City, verturned more then two hundred houses in the Towne and Suburbs, which had not a chimney standing, nor a peece of the rooffe to cover the Churches, the Church of *Emmanuel* besides the shattered windowes, having one of its Steeples laid flat to the ground, and the other broke off in the middle: two of the chiefest Steeples being blown downe, with the destruction of a Cloyster, which cannot be well repaired with many thousand Florens. This was the progresse, yet the end was more wonderfull, both in its time of duration and the bounds of the Tempest. It was then supposed to be raised by some damned Sorcerers, who by the assistance of the Prince of the Ayre had caused this outrage. The instrument of this desolation was limited both to time, place, and persons; the time lasted not above a quarter of an houre: the *Hericano* (so we may call it, though the true one was never seen in *Europe*) did not dilate it selfe beyond the City, where it rent up
some

some few Trees, and killed foure men. This City of *Ratisbone* was ten yeeres after this strange Tempest, Anno 1634. in the moneth of *May*, streightly besieged, and assaulted, by the Imperiall and *Bavarian* Army, consisting of 30000. Foot, and 15000. Horse, when they night and day battered it with an hundred pieces of Ordnance, but were valiantly every Battell repulsed by the *Swedish* Garrison and the Inhabirants, with the slaughter of 4000. Imperialists in the last assault. Many brave Commanders, lost their lives in this siege. The

men having for a long time been in defence of the City, even of the Imperialists, who had their owne relation 8000. men in the place; 6000. others who were 15000. Canons shot upon the 2000. Granadoes into it, from within the City, at last to the Imperialists upon hono-

In the year 1639. the 6. of *March*, at *Moss* a Village neere to the City of *Frankendall*, was found a strange kinde of prodigious Fruit, on a pearre Tree, which was brought from a Country man to the Towne Clark with great admiration of the spectators. It was a branch not round, as a naturall branch or sprig, but broad of about an ell in length, and the delineation thereof was transported to many places, and some the Governour of the Towne himselte afterwards sent to the *Spanish* Infant in at *Brussel*. Whether this prodigy hath portended the miserable devastation and desolation

Strange
kinde of
Fruite,

Companies of them taken prisoners, the Imperiall Commander *Pechman* himselfe, with divers other Officers slain.

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In the yeare 1625. the 8. of *March*, at *Maria* Village neere to the City of *Frankendall*, was found a strange kinde of prodigious Fruit, on a peare Tree, which was brought from a Country man to the Towne Clark with great admiration of the spectators. It was a branch not round, as a naturall branch or sprig, but broad of about an ell in length, and the delineation thereof was transported to many places, and some the Governour of the Towne himselte afterwards sent to the *Spanish* Infant in at *Brussel*. Whether this prodigy hath portended the miserable devastation and desolation

Strange
kinde of
Fruite,

of the whole *Palatinate*, is needlesse to make mention thereof. It is too well knowne to the Christian world, what and how much this Country the years following hath suffered; and long felt the misery of warre, famine, and the plague; and doth not onely continue to this present in the same condition; but the flame thereof hath set the neighbour Countiees on fire, which are sensible of the like miserie. Therefore great need of repentance have such who doe enjoy the contrary, I meane peace and tranquillity and are disburdened of those afflictions with which other people are incombred: for.

*Verba docent, et signa movent et poena probat;
Ni subito in melius vitam converterimus, delusum est.*

In this before mentioned Village *Mors*, wherein this prodigy of Fruit was found, were 9. Troopes of Spanish horses under *Don Philippe de Sylva*, who was then Generall of all the Spanish forces in the *Palatinate*, and in the Bishopricks of *Mentz* and *Trier*, who after a long fight were utterly rowted and defeated by the Swedish Commander the *Rhinegrader*, *Mr.* 1631. The Towne of *Frankendall* was repossessed by the King of *Bohemia* their naturall Lord, *April* 1622. the Spaniards therein would never treat with the King of *Sweden* about it; but with the Prince *Palatine*s ministers, to whom they would descend to deliver it; but: it is lately conquered againe by the Imperial Army, with most lamentable sufferings of the Inhabitants.

Noctē



Multitudes of Crows killing Each other y^e baskits of
them were Carried into y^e Citie in Selebia 1625



Necre Troppaw in Silesia, in the Moneth of February, Anno. 1625. a great multitude of little Crowes (*Cornicula*) appeared in the Ayre, which fought as it were in a set Battaille, and skirmished so eagerly, killing many amongst themselves, that the Boores gathered some sacks full of them dead, and transported them unto the City. The yeere after, Anno. 1626. fell out a hard and sharpe fight, betwixt the Imperialists, and the *Weinmarish* Forces in this place. The Imperiall Commanders *Schaffgatch*, *Dona*, *Colorede*, and *Hexted*, with an Army of some 1000. men of Horse and many Foot, attempting to assault the *Weinmarish* troupes in their Camp neere Troppaw, were still repulsed; and in the end 7. Compaines of the *Weinmarish* sallying out of the Campe, slew and rowted the Imperialists, 4000. dead corpes being found of them upon the place, and many Officers slaine; and so the *Weinmarish* got an happy victory of their enemy, although they were more in number. Another, but more bloody, conflict fell our few Leagues from this place the 3. of May, Anno. 1634. where the Saxonian Army, under the command offield-Marshal *Arnheim* obtained a memorable Battell, and brave successfull victory against the Imperialists: where the onset, and first shocke of the Battell was hot and fiery, continuing with great obstinacy, and bloody opposition, for the space of 6. houres: the Saxons Canons being three times lost to the Imperialists, and three times with much slaughter recovered againe from them by the Saxons. The *Cruassiers*,
and

Multitudes of Crows killing Each other y^e buskets of
them were Carried into y^e Citie in Selepha 1625.



Neere *Troppaw* in *Silesia*, in the Moneth of February, Anno. 1625. a great multitude of little Crowes (*Cornicula*) appeared in the Ayre, which fought as it were in a set Battaile, and skirmished so eagerly, killing many amongst themselves, that the Boores gathered some sacks full of them dead, and transported them unto the City. The yeere after, Anno. 1626. fell out a hard and sharpe fight, betwixt the Imperialists, and the *Weinmarish* Forces in this place. The Imperiall Commanders *Schaffgotch*, *Colorede*, and *Hexted*, with an Army of men of Horse, and many Foot, attempted to take the *Weinmarish* troupes in their *Troppaw*, were still repulsed; and the *Weinmarish* Compaines of the *Weinmarish* *Campe*, slew and rowted the Imperialists. dead corpes being found of this place, and many Officers slaine; the *Weinmarish* got an happy victory of the Imperialists, although they were more in number, but more bloody, conflict fell out betwixt the *Weinmarish* and the Imperialists, from this place the 3. of May, Anno. 1634. where the Saxonian Army, under the command of field-Marshal *Arnhem* obtained a memorable Battell, and brave successfull victory against the Imperialists: where the onset, and first shooke of the Battell was hot and fiery, continuing with great obstinacy, and bloody opposition, for the space of 6. houres: the Saxons Canons being three times lost to the Imperialists, and three times with much slaughter recovered againe from them by the Saxons. The *Carassiers*, and

and *Crabats* did shew much valour and resolution for the most part of the Battell, till in the end the victory inclined to the *Saxon* side. Of the Imperialists were slaine upon the place of Battell above 5000. amongst whom were two Generall Majors, 1. Colonell, 1. Colonell Lieutenant, 4. other Officers of account: *Colredo* the Generall, *Trost* and *Winse*, both Colonells, were grievously wounded; and most of the Captaines of the Foot forces were slaine. Of the *Saxon* party slaine about 400. whereof 2. Ritmasters, 5. Cornets, and 4. Ancients, and 100. of them hurt: 36. Ensignes, 9. peeces of Ordnance, 17. Cornets won in the field.

Thunder
and light-
ning.

In the end of *February*, *Anno* 1625. in divers places of *Silesia* was as exceeding great Tempest with thundering and lightning as hath been since the memory of any man. At *Breslaw* the spires of the *Elizabeth*, and *Mary Magdalene* Churches, the foundation of the State-house, and many fine dwelling places, were overturned into the Towne; great Trees, and a new strongly-built Bridge, before the swinith port, were torne up by the roots, that the next day following nothing of them were scene, but driven to divers places: many faire houses were utterly demolished by this strange Tempest. At *Nissa* a lesser City then *Breslaw*, the chiefest Church there in was struck with a terrible thunder, and the Tower was thereby battered to the very ground worke, and foundation, the 9. of *September*, 1627. At *Breslaw*, *Anno* 1628. a strange prodigie also was observed by the Inhabitants of the same

same City, with great wonder and astonishment: The Moon appearing much bigger then usually, and foure great Ordnance or Canons were first seen in the Ayre, with great terrour; and afterwards heard shot off with uncessant thunders, and volleyes one against another. After that, before the gates of this said City of *Breslaw*, some sharpe conflicts fell out about the 26. of August, Anno 1632. betwixt the Imperialists and the *Swedes*: who pursued the flying Imperialists unto *Breslaw*. After some encounters the Imperialists called to the Citizens on the walls, to assist them, by shooting at the *Swedish*, and *Saxons*, which they refused: Some skirmish being made on both sides, the whole *Swedish* and *Saxonian* Army appearing with their great Artillery, and being come within halfe an houres march of the Imperiall leaguer, they ranged themselves into Battaglia, advancing with their Canon playing before them, and beate the Imperialists over the River *Oder*, who set fire upon their owne quarters before the Towne, and in haste retired themselves with Baggage, and Ordnance over the bridge; which in three places they put fire unto. This had the Imperialists not done, they had been all undone. The *Swedish* were at this day in hot skirmish with them: The next day, in the morning, they began againe the fight, continuing till 8. a Clock: at which time shooting was given over on both sides. The Imperialists towards evening retire a little, and send much of their best Baggage, with 4. great peeces of Ordnance (each drawne by, 20. or 24. horses) to be taken into

into *Breslaw*, for feare least they in their retreat should be forced to leave them to their enemies. The Gunnes were taken in. The most part of the Imperiall Army in the meane time forsooke their owne leaguer, and retyred into that suburb on the other side of *Breslaw*, the *Swedish* continuing their assault, upon those left at the *Oder*: but at last the Imperialists in great haste, retyred themselves from *Breslaw*, some North east-ward, to *Namslaw*; others North-west-ward, to *Anris*, whence was thought they would have gon, out of the Country. Newes afterwards was brought, that other *Swedish* had slaine 200. horsemen more at *Olaw-Bridge*. Whilest the *Swede* was thus employed about *Breslaw*, the *Saxons* follow the *Casarians* towards the passe at *Olaw*, where all day, and night, the *Saxon* Ordnance so thunderd into the Wood, that so soone as ever the *Saxons* came over the Bridge, the Imperialists tooke the rout at it, leaving 2. peeces of Ordnance behinde them. There were 1200. Imperialists said to bee slaine. *October* the third did *Breslaw* accord with the *Swedish* Commander *Dubals*, yeeilding to maintaine those 600. Foot, and 2000. horsemen, which he already had about the Cathedral Church, which is in the Suburbs.

At *Hamborow* the 3. of *May*, 1617. a prodigy was scene in the Heaven not without terrour of the Citizens, and Inhabitants. It appeared first a circle, and therein the accustomed face of the Sunne, but in the edge of the circle five other Sunns, round about the first appearing Sun, with an interposed Rainbow; afterwards two other

other Sunnes with another part of a Rainbow, one extending towards the West, the other towards the South, were to be seen; at the last all this vanished in a burning smoake. This City of *Hamborow* lyeth upon the front of *Holftein*, where some leagues off, betwixt *Bredenberg*, and *Itzeho*, in the same yeare the Imperiall Count of *Slick* fought a Battell against the Marquis of *Durlach*, then Commander of the *Danish* Army, where the said Marquis lost the field, his Army rowted, and a great many of them slaine upon the place, 32. pieces of Ordnance, and 42. Entignes taken by the Imperialists whereupon they suddainly surpris'd the Fort of *Bredenberg*, putting to the sword all that they found in Armes. Not long after, this Count of *Slick* having notice that 24. *Danish* Compaines, with 200 horse-men were enquartered about *Froyborg* some miles distant from *Hamborow*, he with all his forces over-tooke them, cut in pieces 300. of them, 3000. of the *Danish* horse-men sticking in moorish places were all taken prisoners. Betwixt *Hamborow*, and *Stoad* in the end of *April*, Anno 1632. happened another conflict: Generall *Pappenheim* being come with an Army of 10000. horse and foot into *Stoad*, had the passage into *Keydinger* land open; where was a *Swedish* Regiment of Generall Major *Lestyes*, and 4. Companies of Colonell *Monroes* enquartered; upon these falls *Pappenheim*, cuts them off all, takes 19. Colours, and some Captaines and Officers prisoners.

This



*At Sanderborn in Pomerland Appeared a great
Army and of Northern side prevailed*



This 1628. yeare was full of portentuous prodigies, which were seen in many and divers places. At *Sunderbory* in *Pomerland*, the Heavens being open, an Army appeared comming from the Northern parts, the Avantguard thereof being Pioners and Muskettiers; hereupon did follow great peeces of Cannons and Ordnances: the reere was concluded by Cavallery or horsemen. Another Army came forth on the other side against the first, where began a fiery, and hot combat betwixt them: but the victory inclined to the Northern Army. At last a right fiery battle was fought upon the Northern Conquerour, which sent forth fiery rayes or beames, which shined prodigiously for the space of three dayes. A prediction of a great Astrologer of the English Nation, and his judgment of the conjunction of *Saturne* and *Jupiter* Anno 1623. is this; That the conjunction would bee felt in the North-East parts of *Europe* in particular, and in generall over all. That it would produce Warres, Famines, Plagues, &c. Places subject to this he nameth, *Italy*, *France*, *Bohemia*, *Silesia*, and *Germany*. Of Provinces he nameth *Prussia*, *Brandenburg*, *Stiria*, *Hassia*, and *Saxony*: yea, he descends to Cities; naming *Rome*, *Prague*, *Magdenburg*, *Coblentz* betwixt *Mentz* and *Callen*, *Vlin*, *Brunswick*, *Augsburg*, &c. He sayes it is likely to goe hard with the *Romane* Empire, Clergy. Jesuites: he speakes of a King of a true Religion that should doe all this, and much happinesse that should succcede it. How this observation



At Sanderborn in Pomerland Appeared a great Army and of Northern side prevailed



At Breden-felſe came a greates thunderbolts and braks, down a Church and ſlew many in it



This 1628. yeare was full of portentuous prodigies, which were seen in many and divers places. At *Sunderbory* in *Pomerland*, the Heaven being open, an Army appeared comming from the Northern parts, the Avantguard thereof being Pioners and Muskettiers; hereupon did follow great peeces of Cannons and Ordnances: the reere was concluded by Cavallery or horsemen. Another Army came forth on the other side against the first, where began a fiery, and hot skirmish betwixt them: but the victory inclined to the Northern Army. At last a right fiery beame followed upon the Northern Conquerour, which beame put forth fiery rayes or beames, and continued thus prodigiously for the space of some houres. A prediction of a great Astronomer of the *English* Nation, and his judgment upon that great conjunction of *Saturne* and *Jupiter*, *July*, 18. Anno 1623. is this; That the effect of that conjunction would bee felt in the North, and North-East parts of *Europe* in particular: and in generall over all. That it would produce Warres, Famines, Plagues, &c. Places subject to this he nameth, *Italy*, *France*, *Bohemia*, *Silesia*, and *Germany*. Of Provinces he nameth *Prussia*, *Brandenburg*, *Stiria*, *Hassia*, and *Saxony*: yea, he descends to Cities; naming *Rome*, *Prague*, *Magdenburg*, *Coblentz* betwixt *Mentz* and *Cullen*, *Vlin*, *Brunswick*, *Augsburg*, &c. He says it is likely to goe hard with the *Romane* Empire, Clergy, Jesuites: he speaks of a King of a true Religion that should doe all this, and much happynesse that should succcede it. How this observation

tion hath even now been verified, we neede not
 feede the humour of the times : true it is , and
 cannot be denyed , that in the yeare 1630. fol-
 lowing, *Gustavus Adolphus* King of *Sweden*, ha-
 ving conquered many Townes from the King of
Poland, both in *Prussia* , and *Livonia*, came with
 an Army of some 12000. men out of the Nor-
 thern corner of the world , and landed first in
Pomerania, not very farre from *Sunderborg*, where
 the fore-said prodigy was seene : where he first
 beate out the whole Imperiall Army , nor ever
 returned he out of them , but with the Olive
 Branches, the emblèmes of Victory. But these
 Northern trophes upon his next neighbours, as they
 had much of glory ; so have they much of cre-
 dit in them : but chronicle , and beliefe, must
 straine hard to make his Germane conquest any
 thing probable with posterity : and were they
 not written in the times of doing, and acknow-
 ledged by his enemy, scarcely would the legend
 be more apocryphall. For what beleefe (not
 easily to be abused) could perswade it selfe, that
 two third parts of *Germany* could (and
 by him that entred with 12. or 11000. men)
 in two yeares, and 4. months space, be wrested
 from so puissant an Emperour ? A might Empire
 and a potent, formidable for its greatnesse, con-
 fident upon the power of its colleagues , and
 upholders : vast in extent, terrible for its armes
 and Captaines, renowned for its conquests , be-
 yond expectation successfull in all its enterprises,
 and that knew no bounds but the *Alpes*, and the
Ocean. And yet this Empire , with its Armies

or Garifons, that did hold so many Princes at abay, was it selfe constrained to take the yooke, which *Swedens* Cantlet put upon it. In lesse then 2. yeeres and a halfe this Northern Lyon did all this: what might he more have atchieved, had hee gon on another yeare, and two moneths, and filled up the time of that malicious and false prediction, which the *lesuits* had ost abroad of him? They comforted their credulous Novices with his being *Amichrist*; and that he should raigne 3. yeares and a halfe, and no longer.

At *Bisacia* a Village neere the City of *Strasburg*, a poore woman brought forth a strange monster to the world the 11. of *March*, Anno 1628. which was two femalls, whose bodies were joyned together, the externe members, as hands, feete, and heads, being perfect and whole, but onely scene in them one heart, and one lungs. This prodigy if it hath fore-run the many and fearfull outrages committed in the warres neere and about *Strasburg* the yeares following; and those great damages, which usually accompany the warres, and the unruly Souldiers, I know not. Certain it is that these continued warres, these grievous Impositions, these violence, injuries and ravages in those parts would scarcely be beleaved; and to passe by all, the great famine and plague, which for a long continuance have followed this prodigy, no man can be ignorant, how the people and inhabitants of that Country have been tortured for their money, had their cattell driven away, their houses fired,

D and

and all commers driven out of the same Country. The Souldiers neither observed martiall discipline, nor morall honesty : neither keeping the Lawes, nor fearing God. Virgins, and women have been ravished upon the high altars. And if the weekly contribution were not payed at the Souldiers pleasure, then the inhabitants were presently spoyled or killed of them.

Thunder-
bolt did
much hurt

Strange was that Thunderclap which fell at *Brig* in *Silesia*, wherein the Immediate power of God appeared. A thunder Bolt about mid-day, *May*, the 29. *Anno 1628.* fell upon one of the Churches of the same Towne, broke downe the doore, slew a poore woman in the porch as she was praying, wounded in its course many poore women and children. After this the same thunder-bolt, rowted towards the Church in the Suburbs, struck the Minister as he was reading, doing him no more harme but that it singed the haire of his head, nor the people which fell down and prostrated themselves to the Earth at the instant. A strange thunder fell upon the Church at *Sagan*, another Towne in *Silesia*, the 13. *October*, in the same year, whence it burst forth by a window, attended with such winds, raine, haile, stormes, and tempests, that it tore up the Trees by the very roots, blasted the Herbs, and fruit-Trees, and so harrowed the Country for a league about, that the losse was esteemed of a great summe of money : I can onely say with the Prophet, it is the glorious God, which makes the Thunder ; marvellous are his works, and that my soule knoweth right well. Besides this
Thunder,

Thunder and tempest, afterwards appeared just over the Church fiery beames like a sword and a rod, the Bells in the steeple began to sound and ring without helpe of man, and 3. miles of the heavens for the space of an houre seemed open and fiery. Betwixt this Towne *Sagan*, and *Steinaw* both situated in *Silesia*, a hot skirmish happened the 17. of *August*, in the yeare 1632. following; where the *Swedes* and *Saxons* forces came before the Imperiall leaguer under *Don Balthasar di Maradas* consisting of 12000. men. The *Swedes* cruelly with 20. peeces of Ordnance thundred both upon the Towne *Steinaw* and the Imperiall leaguer. The *Swedes*, and *Saxons* Cavalery charged, and fell upon their horse quarters; their horsemen after a charge or two, were defeated: some 4000. of their foot having thrush themselves into the Fort of the same Towne. In this fight were some 2000. Imperialists slaine; the rest of the horse-men running towards *Sveinicz*, and *Breslaw*. At *Griffenberg* another Town betwixt *Sagan*, and *Brig* in *Silesia*, the Swedish Generall *Bannier* was entered in a set Battell with 15000. Imperialists under the conduct of their Generall *Colredo* the 29. of *June*, Anno 1634. and got a noble victory; where the Imperialists lost some 4000. men slaine upon the place. Another Towne in *Silesia* by name *Olaw*, felt the like misery of the bloody warres, with more grievous punishment. After the Battell at *Lignish* the *Saxon* Army marched towards the same Towne, wherein the Imperiall Governour being advertised of the *Saxons* coming, burnt the

the whole Towne to the ground, and betooke himselfe into the Castle; from thence the Saxons did goe to *Orls*, a lesser Towne then this in *Silesia*, wherein the Imperiall Governour *Don Iohn de Languiall* yeelded to the mercy of the Saxon, and was taken prisoner, with his 300. Souldiers. *Sillar* a City in *Silesia* suffered also much calamity, and was plundered at the same time by the Souldiers in their fury. For the Saxon Army, though not with strong opposition tooke, the same City by assault; the issue on both sides was bloody.

A very miraculous thing happened in a Souldier at *Geismar* in *Hassia*, Anno 1630. Two Souldiers lying for a safeguard in the same Towne, the one at night makes his complaint to his fellow Souldier, who lay with him in one bed, for taking much cold, to whom the other answered, that he did not beleevē it in regard that his body was very hot, and wet, intreating him to touch, and feele his side. Which when he had done, finding his hands exceeding wet, which were as it were glued or congeled together, suspected some had event; First lookes upon his hands in the shadow of the Moon, and apprehendeth his hands to be bloody: being hereat much terrified, called for a Candle; who finds the Souldier very weake, and his left side and the sheets of the bed to be bloody: and whereas their indeavour was to wash off the blood of his side, presently commeth forth more, and more blood; at length after a space of an houre it ceaseth of it selfe. Three handfulls of blood,

or thereabout was taken out of the sheetes: this, with the relation of other circumstances, they presented in the morning to the Captaine and Commander of those two Souldiers, who enquired of him, how he had felt himselfe that night; the Souldier answered, that he had been in great anguish of heart, and was afterwards restored to his former health. It cannot be concealed, how many and severall Armies and Forces since have invaded this goodly Country of *Hassien*, and especially about the time when this prodigie happened on the Souldier. The 2. next yeeres after, how barbarously and inhumanely the Inhabitants thereof have been used by the Imperall Army, and that against all reason, without any cause, and besides all colour of right and justice: they are yet still sensible of them; and which was worse then all this, if the Prince with his poore subjects did at any time complaine or sue for justice or redresse, they were but scorned and rejected for their labours, contrary to all Lawes and rights of nature; as also against the peace of Religion and of policy, all Constitutions, and Articles of the *Romanie* Empire: yea, they have endured the most barbarous usage that might be, in the said Country of *Hassia*; namely in quarterings, taxations, burnings, robberies, sacking of their Townes, and Villages: yea, also, and of putting to the sword innumerable innocent Subjects of all sorts. During all which proceedings of the enemy, and most lamentable sufferings of the Inhabitants, the worst hath been of all, that notwithstanding

those infinite complaints, prayers, cries, and lamentation, they were never able to obtaine any pittie of their cause, or any Christian compassion towards them.

The *Norimbreg* Carrier, with some company in his journey towards *Hamberow* passing by the Towne of *Coburg* at night in the moneth of *May*, *Anno* 1630. observed with great admiration a prodigious fire going into the Towne and out of the Towne, as if some discharging of great Ordnance were heard, for certaine houres after this. Before the Towne of *Coburg* Generall *Wallenstein* presenting his Canons in the yeare, 1632. following, the Towne being thereupon entred, the Dukes Pallace within the Towne fell also to the Souldiers ransacking with the rich household-stuffe, and a great part of treasure. The Towne being thus mastered, the strong Castle standing upon a Rocke without the Towne, was next summoned. The roise of the summons is answered by the thunder of the Canons: which being lowder then the sound of the Trumpet, would not let the offered conditions to be hearkned unto. *Wallensteins* Ordnance therefore are sent to reply upon *Dubatahs* Canons, who had then the command of it. *Wallenstein* having shot a breach in the lower parts of the Castle wall, he prepared all things to give a generall assault upon it. Five hundred Souldiers thereupon being commanded into the dry Crafte or Moote of the Castle; Other from the Towne side with continued Volleys of sinall, and great shot, entertained the besieged

ed. *Dubatel* having with good diligence also brought downe some new peeeces of Ordnance, he so scowers the Imperialists, that a many of the assaylants already halfe way mounted, came fluttering downe headlong into the Moate. *Wallenstein* perceiving the Castle to be strong, high situated, well provided, and the besieged resolved for defence; after that one repulse had been given him he retreated, Anno 1634.

At *Hall*, in lower *Saxony*, in the beginning of May, Anno 1631. the Water was turned to blood, which miracle was beheld with horreur of many of the Inhabitants. Great alteration about the middle of the said moneth of May, in the same yeere followed in this City. First as it was taken by *Tilly*, so was it retaken by their naturall Lord the Administrator of *Hall* and *Magdenburg* from *Tilly*. But presently repossessed by *Tillys* Forces. Hither Generall *Tilly*, thus wounded in the Battell of *Leipsig*, made saile to flie that night, and had his wounds dressed by the Town-barber of *Hall*. This City of *Hall* is but 7. Dutch miles distant from the place of Battell, wherein the Imperiall Army was quite defeated and beaten out of the Field, being miserably slaine and trodden downe in the chase. And had the King of *Sweden* had but 3. houres more of day-light, scarcely had, 1000. Enemies come off alive. One of the high-Dutch relations doth affirme, that there were, 15000. of the Imperialists slaine upon the place of Battell, or in the chase; the same night and the dayes following. *Tillys* manly heart (tis said) could not refraine his teares, when he perceived his brave old Souldiers,

and Army, which was called invincible, consisting of 44000. brave men, thus going to wracke. The chase and slaughter being done, which continued all the next day, the 10. of *September*, the King besieged *Hall*, which the next day was yeelded unto him. The Castle he tooke in *September*, 12. where he tooke an Imperiall Sergeant Major, and a Captaine prisoners, redeeming a Colonell with some others that had been taken prisoners at *Magdenburg*; The King sending for the Duke of *Saxony*, and other the great commanders of his Army, to come to *Hall*, unto him. A counsell of warre was there held, which way to keepe the enemy from gathering head againe, and how to pursue the victory. *Anno* 1632. *Pappenheim* tooke in againe this City of *Hall*, did not omit that spoile, and barbarisme upon the City, as was reported. Part of the Bridge he burned, and blew up some of the workes: Clapt a petard to the Castle gate, in which then was a *Swedish* commander, with a garrison of 200. Souldiers. However the leader of *Pappenheims* Salliers was there shot dead, and fell, his men forced from the the Castle to retyre, being after some skirmishing beaten into the Towne againe. At which instant a messenger of *Wallenstins* overtooke him, to returne backe with all his forces towards *Lutzen*, in which bloody Battell he was also stricken with a bullet of a Falconet.

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At Madenburke a Captaines wife dieing in
Childbed desired to be ripte up shee had a
Child as bige as a child of 3 yeares old
on his head a head peice and a brest
plate Gret bootes and a bag at his side



At Frawenstein 16 miles from Dres
den a woman hauings bought bread
and going to cut it thervout shewed
bloode



In the time of the siege of *Magdeburg* a City
Captaines wife dying in child-bed, desires to be
ript: the child was found, a boy almost as big
as one of three yeeres old. He had an head-
peice and an iron breast-plate upon him; great
bootes of the french fashion: and a bag by his
side, with two like musket-bullets. This horrible
prodigy hath doubtlesse portended the deplora-
ble destruction, and dire abodement unto the
same City; which fell out the 10. of *May*,

A Child
taken out
of the body
of a wo-
man as big
almost as
one of
three
yeeres
old.

Anno 1631. when a generall assault, by the
Imperialists was made upon the Towne; the
walls were in a trice mounted, the Towne en-
tered, and the Souldiers fell to killing. *Falken-
berg* the *Swedish* commander therein, after valiant
resistance was slaine with a shot, the admini-
strator hurt and taken. Whilest all thus goes
to wrack, a mighty fire breakes out (how
none knowes) it being a great windy day, all
was on the sudden become one great flame: the
whole Towne was in twelue houres space, wholly
turned to cinders, excepting few fisher houses.
Six goodly Churches are burnt: the Cathedral
was by the Monkes, and Souldiers diligence
preserved. Twenty thousand people at least
were herein killed, burned, and smothered:
six thousand being observed to be drowned in
the River *Elbe*. *Tilly*, *Wallons*, and *Crabats* never
use to give quarter, or beg any: So that
all were killed. 2. dayes after *Tilly* came into
the Towne, and finding some hundreds of wo-
men and children in the Church, he gives them
their lives, and some bread to maintaine them.

How

At Madenburke a Captaines wife dieing in
 Childbed desired to be ripte up shee had a
 Child as bigge as a child of 3 yeares old
 on his hind a head pe
 plate & gret bootes and a bag at his side



At Frawenstein 16 miles from
 den a woman hauinge bought bread
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 their lives, and some bread to maintaine them.

A Child
 taken out
 of the body
 of a wo-
 man as big
 almost as
 one of
 three
 yeeres
 old.

How

How inhumane a devastation of this so ancient and goodly *Hanse Towne*, the County of *Tilly*, and *Pappenheim* had then made, no Pen can expresse it. The cruelty of which fury, no man can discover one halfe to the world, that a goodly City should be reduced to such ruines: as if *Hannibal* had done it, and not *Tilly*; *Hannibal* who had the art by fire and vinegar, to moulder away, the Rocks and Mountaines into crumbles; for the forcing of his owne passage.

a Strange
Armies
met in the
Ayre, one
out of the
South, the
other out
of the
North.

The 18. and 19 of *June*, Anno 1631. at *Ascherleben* in the lower *Saxony*, towards evening a terrible prodigy was scene, and observed in the Heaven. Two strong Armies met together, and prepared themselves to a pitch Battell. One came forth out of the South, and the other marching up out of the North. After a long fight the Northern Army obtained the victory from the other. This Prodigy was scene the said two dayes for the space of an houre in the cleere heaven. After the Battell was ended, a Man in a long coate appeared two severall times, bearing a bow, shooting and prostrating the leader or commander of the Southern Army. Betwixt this Towne *Ascherleben*, and *Tangermund*, in the moneth following, *July* the 8. happened a sharpe conflict betwixt the *Swedes* and Imperialists, *Pappenheim* then Commander of 4. Regiments of *Crabats*, and others, and the expul'd *Garrisons* thereabouts being sent by *Tilly* to hinder the King of *Swedens* proceedings in those places. The *Rhinegrave* therefore with some *Swedish* Forces being there abroad, *Pappenheim* falls up-
on

on them ; of whose approach the King having intelligence with all the horie he could make, and some 2000. Muskettiers came time enough to make one in the Battell. *Pappenheims* Foot were almost all cut off, most of the horie ran away. Himselfe escaped first into *Ascherleben*, from whence hee halted towards *Magdenburg*, there to expect his master the Generall *Tilly*. It was said that some 20. Companies of the Imperialists were here defeated, and some 14. Ensignes taken. *Tilly* being come backe unto *Wolmerstad*, few leagues from *Ascherleben*, upon the 16. or 17. of *July*, he first of all dispatches away 4. Regiments of Horie for his vant Curriers, to stay the King whilst himselfe with his whole Army might come up to him, and to tempe the King to a pitcht Battell in the Field. These gallant troopes, most of them old Souldiers, were *Pappenheims* men, and very forward therefore now to revenge their fellowes, marching towards the Kings leaguer, and tooke up their quarters about *Tanger*. The Swedish charging presently tumbles down a many of the Imperiall Curassiers ; Colonell *Bernstin*, who was thoir leader, himselfe being slaine, thus were 1500. slaine, all the 4. Regiments defeated. This defeat was given, *Tilly* himselfe being in the sight of it. *Tilly* resolving now upon a revenge, *July*, 21. forwards hee sets towards the King brought some 26000. men along with him, and all these full of anger, resolution and desire of revenge ; 3. severall times assaults the King in his trenches, but was beaten off, and with such

such a tempest of shot, chaine-shot, murdering shot, and what ever was cruellest to doe execution, showed in amongst the Imperialists out of the Kings campe, that there was made a miserable butchery, Tilly at length rettyred from the King, leaving five hundred starved horses behind him. Some report him to have lost 6000, or, 7000. men: perchance in all these 3. great defeats of *Pappenheim*, *Bernsteins* and his own. Upon the fatall seaventh of September, this 1631. yeare in the bloody Battell of *Leipsig*, Generall Tilly himselfe was twige or thrice wounded with Pittall-shot, and his whole Army spaine, and rowted; as is already mentioned. Upon the place of Battell which the enemy had left for the King of Sweden, there sate a focke of Birds; which being sprung by the Kings coming, tooke their flight directly over Tillys Armie; and fetching there a circle about (and that also the *Romanes* would have accounted an happy presage) they turned againe towards the Kings Army: as who should say, we went to fetch you victory. But the King had a better presage on his side then a flight of Birds, God with us, which was the watch-word; and that which the *Romane* Generall sometimes preferred before the Birds: *Romano milite dignus, Ensis adest auxur*; his valour namely; and his sword. Generall Tilly, Anno 1632. received also another, but more mortall shot of a Musket in the thigh, a little above the knee, in the conflict at *Lech* betwixt him and the King, whereof he afterwards April, the 20. dyed with-

in the Towne of *Ingolstadt*, after the taking of 4. splinters out of his thigh.

Few yeares before the long, cruell and bloody Battell was fought at *Lutzen*, the water in the Towne ditch of *Lutzen*, was turned to blood, which prodigy was fullfilled upon the 6. of November, Anno 1632. wherein the bloody encounter in continuall exercise lasted from 9. in the morning untill night; in which the *Swedes* did overthrow the whole Imperiall Army with slaughter of 9000. men upon the place: many a brave man dyed of the anguish of his wounds miserably; who might otherwise have beene cured. The King of *Swedens* Majesty himselfe, (as was sayd) out of the greatnesse and bravenesse of his courage, having made a charge upon the Imperiall curassiers, was there over-laid with a number of men, and did receive a shot in the left arme, which, he scarce feeling at first, would needs have led on still. But perceiving by and by his royall blood to gush out abundantly, in his retreat was shot thorow the body. Whose death indeed is never enough to bee lamented, and so this dying Conquerour did seale the Religion, and liberty of the *German* Nations with his blood; and to whom the more ingenuous Imperialists at *Prague*, were heard to give this honourable Testimony; that he was the bravest enemy, and the best Captaine, that ever was in Christendome. And so the *Swedes*, and protestants Army found themselves to have gotten but a dolefull and a wofull victory; losing that incomparable Conquerour who was, alone, worth

worth 2. Armies. But he is dead ; and thus heartily bemoaned of the *Germanes* (to speake of him no more) as of his owne subjects, who yett professe their losse to be unspeakeable. And in both their Chronicles shall his Sacred memory be made famous, and his Name shall live in their mouths, and be honoied. About the death of this glorious King of *Sweden*, some singular, and miraculous Prodigies happening also, had affrighted the people in *Swedland* : amongst others, in the selfe same houres and times, when this Battell of *Lutzen* was fought appeared just over the Castle, and Royall Seate of *Stockholm* a Virgin or Damsel at night, holding in one hand a burning Candle, in the other a white Handkercher, which she cast about. Besides it was noted and observed, that all the doores in Castle, although they were shut and lockt, three severall times did open themselves. A River not of small account in *Swedland*, lost the same time his water, insomuch that all the day long a man might goe thorow with a drie foot. In *Smaland* a Province of that Kingdome, the Bells without helpe of man began to sound, with great dishartning and terror of the Inhabitants.

At *Busheim* a village betwixt the Townes of *Frauenstein*, and *Fribery*, in the dominion of the *Sher* of *Saxonie* happened a strange Prodigie in the beginning of *April*, Anno 1623. where first in the Ayre was seene a signe of a two-fold Rain-bow, the one white as Snow, the other exceeding blacke : besides this another signe appeared of a fiery colour. The next day from
clever

A Virgin
with a
Candle, &
Handker-
cher.

A double
raie-bow,
one white,
the other
black.

eleven till two of the clock in the aftermoone, another aspect of a high white colour reappeared. Besides all this, at *Frauenstein* a woman having bought some Loaves of Bread, and turning homewards to her dwelling place, as she was dividing the Bread, blood came thereout. This *Frauenstein*, being a pretty Towne upon a Hill some 16. English miles to the South of *Dresden*, was taken by the Imperialists by a bloody assault, the 3. Of *October* following, in the same yeare 1632. For finding some opposition, the Imperialists doe carry the Towne by *Scaladoe*, and put all both Souldiers and Inhabitants most miserably to the Sword for it. *October* the 4. they assault *Friberg*, a handsome Towne upon the River *Mulda*, some 10. English miles to the West of *Frauenstein*. The Towne also was hard laid at by the Imperialists, being no way able to hold out a generall assault, which was the next day threatned them, and a generall destruction withall; if they yeelded not; which the 5. *October* was done. Neere this *Friberg*, *Holcks* men, who was then chiefe Commander of those Imperiall Forces, taking, (I know not what) high displeasure at a certaine Minister of the Country (a man of rare learning) first of all hewed him miserably in peeces with their swords, and then fung him to their Dogs to bee eaten. But the Dogs, as astonished at such savage cruelty (ô stand. and wonder) would not so much as touch, or licke a droppe more of his blood. VVhereupon his friends the next

Blood
running
out of a
loafe of
Bread.

Haino ha-
mini Lupus

Men me-
tamorpho-
sed into
Vipers.

day gathered up his pieces, and interred them. And lest this should seeme incredible, the Authour of *Le soldat Suedois* avowes, that the *Crabats* shewed themselves ingenious to invent new torments for the poore Inhabitants : and that it was frequent with them for want of Dogs-meate, to feede their Curres with humane flesh. This if it may be true, though the Dogs were the Man-eaters, yet the *Crabats* surely were the *Cannibals*.

A strange
Abortive

At *Kempten* in *Swabeland*, a strange Prodigie, and abortive was borne of a Citizens wife in the moneth of *August*, Anno 1632. his head was altogether fat, and without eares ; the hands stretcht out all bloody twixt the flesh and skin, whose left hand held a rope, the belly thereof having too prickt wounds, and the left knee twice broken, a corde being about it.

This goodly Towne was held by the Imperiall Commander *Bray*, and being strongly besieged, and many times furiously assaulted by the *Suedes*, at the end of six dayes it was surrendred upon composition in the moneth of *May*, in the yeare 1633. The Commander went to *Reutaw*, where he was beheaded, because he so slightly surrendred the said Towne. The 18. of *March*, Anno 1634. was this Towne of *Kempten* the second time taken by *Gustavius Horn* by assault ; and whereas the Imperiall Colonell with his Garrison had retyred themselves into the Castle, both place and men were enforced the next day to yeeld upon hard conditions. Many bloody skirmishes are fallen out about this Towne, where

where the Imperialists were often times beaten to the very gates of *Kempfen*. What misery the yeares following this Towne felt, and the Country thereabouts, when it was besieged and taken by the Imperialists againe, cannot well be expressed. It was brought to such extremity of famine, not much inferiour to that of *Samaria*, and *Ierusalem*, recorded in holy Scripture, or *Saguntus* in *Spain*, and *Perusium* in *Hetruria*, or *Tuscany* a Province in *Italy*, mentioned by prophane Histories; many brave Citizens out of this and the neighbour Townes were compelled by necessity to beare Armes, thereby to get their lively-hood. Horse-flesh was sold for high prizes, Dogges, Cats, and Vermine, were as good as Venison: all commerce being cut off, Bread-Come was not onely at an excessive rate, not to be purchased with money: so that the spruce Citizens, which formerly held the Country people as Boores and Clównes unfit for their society, might well discern that their labours were not to be despised, their dead wares standing in no parallell of Use with the Fruit of the Field, gotten by the industry of the rough handed Plow-man, and the blessing of God.

In the moneth of February. Anno 1633. at *Dobenschütz*, a Village in the territory of *Althenburg* in a fish-pond sprang forth blood which caused an exceeding ill stinke, so that if passengers had touched it, they could not wash off the stinke in 3. dayes. This Country indeed hath been this yeare and the others following lamentably ruined and plunged: the Souldiers licenti-

Blood
springing
out of a
fish-pond.

God puni-
theth fil-
thy beast-
lynns with
stenches,
& filthy
i. v. v. s.

Filthy and
filthy ele
unclean-
ness.

Savage
cruelty.

ousnesse, exercising their wonted cruelty and beast-ly ravishing, hath beene unheard of. Many faire Townes were forced, spoiled, and burnt to ashes for resisting, and divers of the Villages, as well as the foresaid *Dobenschutz*, put on fire, and the Inhabitants thereof most miserably slaughtered. Here were the women, yea, Ladies, Gentlewomen, and others like beasts and dogs yoked, and coupled together, to be sent into the Woods and ravished: who for resisting had their cloaths stript off, their bodies whipt, their eares cut off, and so sent home againe. Hereabout gat the Souldiers and *Crabats* together some thousands heads of Cattell, and what beast soever could not, or did not readily follow them, they either houghed or killed; lest (as they said) it should serve some hereticks. The rest I omit, not so much for brevities sake, as for horror: not listing to relate the *Barbarismes*, and sheddings of blood committed by the *Crabats* as if they had salne in not to make warres, but desolations; or as if they had beleevd, that a Country was never thorowly conquered, till it were utterly by sword and fire destroyed.

Gustavus Horn, Swedish field-Marshal, with the *Rhinegrave*, and a Landgrave of *Hessen*, being come to *Bibrach* the 6. of *March*, Anno 1632. a portentuous Prodigie appeared about 8. a clocke in the evening right over the Towne; two long Swords were seene in the Ayre, the one fiery, the other red as blood. Many hard encounters fell out about this time, and about
this

this place, betwixt the *Swedes* and *Imperialists*. *Hornes* people were supposed to have killed 600. *Crabats* in a few dayes, neere and about this Towne of *Bibrach*; and so many of *Duke de Ferias* men, who had a new Army of *Spanish* and *Italians* brought to aide the *Imperialists*, dyed by the way, by frost, sword and famine, that betwixt *Vlm*, and *Bibrach* were found 1000. dead carcasses. And so the *Catholick* Generalls were then glad to make towards *Bavaria*, having scarce brought away the third part of their Army; *Spanish*, *Italians*, *Germans*, and *Burgundians*. This Towne of *Bibrach*, not long after *Gustavus Horns*, departing, was retaken by the *Imperialists* by assault: the Garrison laying downe both Armes and Ensignes, to have their bare lives saved. Some moneths after foure Regiments of the *Imperialists*, betwixt this Towne and *Isne*, were surprised and ruinated by the *Swedes*, which invaded their quarters, tooke a Colonell with many Officers prisoners, putting a great many to the sword: 600. other *Imperialists* having been abroad, were also overtaken and killed the most of them.

In the moneth of *March*, Anno. 1634. *Gustavus Horn* besieged the City of *Bibrach* againe, in the which lay 1300. men, offering upon his first approaches a faire agreement, which the *Imperiall* Governour of the Towne refused: then planting his Ordnance, hee battered the Towne so long, till he won the enemies works, and made a breach

into the walls. Then the Governour sending a Trumpet out of the Towne, desired reasonable conditions ; else that he would defend the Towne to the last man ; And that first of all he would burn and blow up all the Protestant Citizens, which he had already lockt up into the Towne-house, and into a cellar. This being refused, for that he had already denied first good offers. After all this, when as all things were ready for the assault, and the *Swedish* troopes advanced towards the breach, the Evangelicall Ministers together with divers women came foorth of the Towne making a most pitifull cry and entreaty to the *Swedish* Generall, signifying it would cost all their lives, for that the Town-house was already undermined, and the Myne filled with powder, and that they certainly expected to be blown up immediately. Out of commiseration therefore to those poore people was offered another agreement unto the Governour, and granted them liberty to march out with their swords onely: which was accepted.

At *Dresden June*, the 23. *Anno 1634.* happened another Prodigy ; where towards evening at five of the clocke, the Sun was first seene as white as Snow, and then suddainely becoming darke, as if a mist went over it : It appeared first in forme of a Crowne, and then like a Feather ; red as blood, in which postures when it had continued by the space of halfe an houre, it returned to his orbicular shape, but retained the sanguine hew till it went downe ; and the Moon at her rising, retained the same

same bloody aspect till she was not to be seen in that Horizon. I know not whatsoever the Physiologers bable of naturall causes, yet such alteration in the Heavenly and Ayry bodies is alwayes prodigious.

Memorable was that observation of the ancient Astrologians to this purpose. Speaking of the fearful blazing Star seene 1618. that it did presage ——— *1. Violenta et superba Consilia, dissidia, proditioes et rebelliones.*

2 Latrocinia, et subseffiones viarum, solitudinem Anxietatemq, Animorum.

3 Regum et Principum interitum, bella, pestem, et morbos varios.

4 Religionis legum, et institutorum mutationem, novarum rerum inexplebilem cupiditatem.

I shall not dispute of the effects but expect them: a Luxuriant wit may happily play on either side, and presage probably good or evill to either party. I dare not medle here; my wish is — *Deus omen in hostes Convertat* — and my prayer shall still be: *Powre out thine indignation, O Lord, upon the Heathen, and thy wrath upon them which have not called upon thy name.*

About the midle of June, Anno 1634. at Berlin in the marquisdome of Brandenburg it rayned Blood, and Brimstone. The next yeare following in the moneth of November, before the gate of *Itzebo*, a Towne in *Holfstein* it rayned thick blood; whose droppes instead of inck have represented right naturall Blood in writing. How many bloody conflicts and encounters the same yeare and the next following happened betwixt these two

Blood and
Brimstone
from Heaven.

Countries, no man can fully apprehend or beleeve, unlesse such as have seen it with their eyes. And to avoide all other bloody passages, which have rag'd most cruelly in those parts, yet still in remembrance is the last bloody and sore Battell, which was fought in the moneth of *October*, Anno 1636. at *Wustock*, in which were slaine 7000. of common Souldiers upon the place, on the *Saxon* and Imperiall side, and many others more, which fell by the sword of the *Svedes* in the prosecution. 6. whole Regiments being totally ruinated, besides those great Commanders who lost their lives also, namely the two Generall Majors, *Wilsdorp*, and *Goltz*, 5. Colonels, besides Rittmasters, Captaines, and divers Officers both of Horse and Foot 1500. prisoners taken, amongst which were 170. Officers, 143. Cornets and Ensignes, 14. peeces of Ordnance, and 8000. Wagons were left to the *Swedish* conquerours. Of the *Svedes* were also slaine upon the place of Battell 1000. and upwards; amongst which there were of account two Colonels, 4. Lieutenant Colonels, and sundry Rittmasters, Captaines, and under officers.

At *Melnick* where the *Randevoux* of the *Saxon* Army was, in time of prayer, *July* the 24. Anno 1634. was a strange apparition in the Ayre, which is thus delivered by Letters bearing date the same day——That about evening, when our Electors Chaplaine was at prayers, there appeared a signe in the Skie, like a fiery Beame: when he had finished his course,
and

and the Lieutenant Generall *Arnhelm* his Chap-
laine did his Office, there appeared another in
a forme of a Scepter fiery-red, just over the
house where he made his sermon, as soone as
prayers were done, and the Chaplaine had spo-
ken *Amen*, the signe vanished: it was seene of
many after this. The *Crabats*, like Ver-
min in a Warren, worse then Bandetties, have
ransacked, plundered, and pillaged what places
soever they came unto, in these Countries, this
yeare, and the other following: they spared
neither Noblemens Houses, Churches, nor
Cloysters, but robbed, and dismembred the
Country people, ravished the women, de-
floured the maids, burnt the Villages, and
Townes, and did such mischievous insolences,
as those *Rhodopes*, and *Dolopes* would have star-
ted at.

Scepter
seene red,
and fiery.

Man and beast, and Fowles of the Ayre, all
seemed now to be at an irreconcilable difference,
and *Germany* must be the stage whereupon they
played their prizes: at *Hessen*, in the moneth
of *March*, Anno 1635. there met together
two Armies of strange Birds, which fought,
as it were, in a set Battaile: and neere
Straubinge, upon the *Danubie* multitudes of
Dogges had their randevouze, which fought
so eagerly, that the whole vicinage was not
onely affrighted by the Prodigy, but, as if
they would not admit of any agreement,
but such as themselves liked of, when the
Governour of *Ratisbone* had sent out against
them

2 Armies
of Birds
fighting

them 4. companies of his Garrison, with Muskets and other Military instruments to assault and slaye them, they left their hostility, a strange Enemy coming upon them, set upon the Souldiers, and in despite of their shot and weapons devoured nine men.

Strange

Multitudes of Strange dogges fought so
Eagerly and slew each other that the
Gouernor of Ratisbone sent
4 Companies of Muskets
against them and 9 of
the men were slaine
by the dogges



The Conduit at Isenach rane blood
for 2 houres together 1637



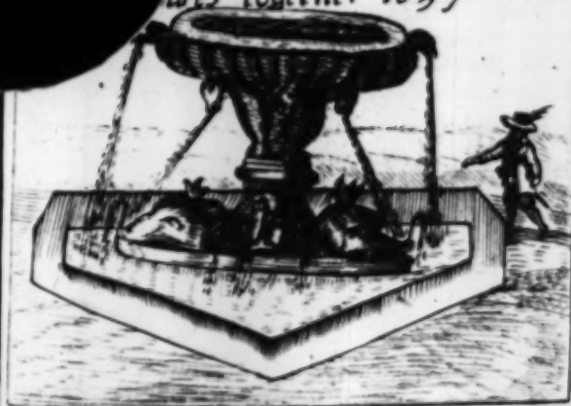
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duit at Isenach rare blood
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Strange Prodigies terrifying the hearts of the people, while the Princes and peeres were in their jollitie in the Dyet at *Ratisbone*: *Mars*, and *Saturne* reigned abroad, and warre with his grim attendants, Famine, Pestilence, Fire, and destruction also raging abroad in the *Romane* Empire. What might happen by the fault of a carelesse or unskillfull Mason, not well bedding or cementing the stones, at the building of a new Steeple at *Vienna*, was by the construction of the vulgar sort counted ominous. The spire of *Shotten* lately built fell downe suddenly the 19. of December, Anno 1636. about the time of the Coronation of the new King of *Romanes* at *Ratisbone*, and demolished the new builded Church: and that was made portentous, the rather, being accompaigned with another of the same time at *Rome*; where a great blazing Starre, called by the Naturalists *Cometa Crinitus*, appeared for a space, and then vanished away suddenly over *S. Pauls* Church with a noyse: and diverse Monuments, placed in the Church, fell downe, and were defaced utterly. Now it would relish of over much boldnesse to peepe into the Arke of the Divine Secrets, nor can we conclude any particular consequences to have been portended by the accidentary fall of the aforesaid new Steeple at *Vienna*; yet doubtlesse the comet, though caused by the meeting of secundary and naturall causes, was the signification

significator of what ensued about that time, and not long after. Within the space of a moneth the Emperour *Ferdinand* the second, who had long been sickly at *Ratisbone*, and then removed to *Vienna*, exhaled his last spirit, *February* the 5. *Anno* 1637. betwixt 8. and 9. of the clock in the morning, to the great grieve of the Court and City, which had prepared triumphs and tournaments, and in much braverie determined to receive the new King of *Romanes*; but by this occasion laid aside their gallantrie, put on the face of sorrow, and by their dejected lookes and mourning apparell, shewed their anxietie for his losse, who so long had steered the ship of State to their content; and was then taken from them, when the tottering Empire freshly assaulted and ransacked by strangers, required such a Nestor, as by sage directions grounded upon mature deliberations might preserve it from feare of utter ruine.

Some prodigies happening in sundry places of the *Roman* Empire before the meeting of the Princes in the electorall diet at *Ratisbone*, did dis-hearten the common people, and made them despaire of any good issue by that treaty. One was at *Wels* in *Austria*, the suddaine uncovering of the Emperours house of pleasure, where he was lodged, (by a violent tempest, and this was accompanied with two others at *Lintz*, the first whereof; was the suddaine fall of an Arch of the Bridge made over the *Danuby*, which the Emperour had

no

no sooner passed over, but it tumbled into the River: the other this; Three carved Eagles, placed upon the house of a Burgesse of *Lintz*, being broken downe, by the fury of the Tempest, were mounted by the same violent blast into the Ayre, shattered there sundry wayes, and the one in the end fell upon the house appointed for the assembly of the Province, the other upon the State-house, and the third upon a publike Aqueduct. Anno 1636. Distracted wits upon every light occasion, project terrible things: These conceits were fond, and superstitious, not rationally, and sound. The harsh beginning of the Dyer, and the first session was more to be feared, as a fatall Prognosticke of no happy conclusion, then those antecedent accidents.

A bloody time was in the Electorate of *Saxony*, and a generall feare was conceived by the adjoyning Princes, that the fury of warre would not be confined there: the hearts of the people were terrified by a strange Prodigie, which though it admits no particular interpretation, was as terrible as portentous. The conduit at *Isenach* Anno 1637. situated in the midst of the Marketsted, suddenly instead of water poured out blood, and so continued for the space of two houres, before it yeelded againe that Element, for which that aqueduct was ordained. A bloody time ensued it betwixt the Imperiall Generalls and *Danishers* Forces: where few dayes passed

A conduit
running
blood

sed without shedding of blood in those parts about the same time. And the miserable condition of that Dukedome of *Saxony*, and the detriments and most totall ruine thereof, can not bee delivered without an accent of griefe : which desolation was made, not onely by the *Swedes* the enemies, but also by the seeming friends the *Cesarians*, who spared not to burne those places to the ground, where they finde not as much provision, as they demand for their Armies: and the severall Conflicts betwixt the *Swedish* and *Saxonian* Armies, were not without the effusion of much Christian blood, but the blood so shed was not taken away by way of murther, (Warre justly grounded, is continued lawfully; the Sword is oft a just decider of controversies, and though it bee accompted one of the great Plagues sent by G O D, it is not attended with any injustice in the execution) black murthers and horrid treasons hatched in darknesse, what ever the pretence thereof may be, are not onely unexcusable, but detestable also to G O D, and man.

Peace, the benefits whereof have not for many late yeeres been sensibly discovered to the *Germans*, was now, and especially in this Country of *Saxony*, the generall desire of the people : the Boeres, which lived by tillage, and feeding of Cattell, hoped that these yeares the Swords would
be

he turned into Plow-shares, and the Pikes into shepherds Crooks; the Merchants, whose free traffique was stopp'd by these Militarie broyles, began to feele poverty, coming upon them, more then the armed men against their enemies, and longed for an open trade, and severall persons, according to our humane condition, *qui facile credimus, quod volumus*, upon each slight occasion, gave out, that a truce for time of yeares, if not a certaine and firme peace, would be concluded betwixt the Crowne of Sweden and its Allies, and the King of Hungary, and his adherents. But the misery of that Country was not yet come to the height: the Elector himselfe lost almost his whole Country: *Meissen* the chiefest City of *Misia*, *Eulemberg*; *Grim*, *Borne*, *Debutz*, *Bitterfeld*, *Belgeren* and *Hall*, yeelding instantly to the Swedish Conquerours; having no hope of reliefe by any Confederate Army; onely *Dresden* of all the umbilicall Cities of *Saxony*, did hold still out, yet not without feare of being made the spoyle of strangers; the Imperiall Armies being so farre from their succours, that their march, and places of rest, were unknownen to the Citizens.

The Swede was by this success growne
F. terrible

terrible to the Commons of the Empire;
some accounted him as an authorized ex-
ecutioner of divine justice, upon the Saxons,
whose juggling dealing had brought this mi-
sery and desolation upon his Dukedoms.

Anna

Prodigies of Germany.

62



A woman at
Crying Noth-
into you -

vienna appeared
ing but noe
noe into you



Anno 1637. the water at *Weimar* againe turned to blood. A strange Worm in the shape of a man, with perfect Lineaments, and a golden Crowne upon his head, was found in a sallad at an Herb-womans shop at *Coblentz*, and which (if not prestigious) was most terrible, A woman appeared in a mourning habit, in *Stephens* the Cathedrall Church-yard at *Vienna*, June the 18. 1637. which, with an accent of sorrow, from 11. to 12. at night yelled out woe unto you, woe unto you; often repeating those words, and nothing else: the Bells without helpe of man rung sodainly, to the great affrightment of the people, who descanted upon the *Omen*, doubting such horrid consequences would ensue it, as presented themselves to their severall fancies. A new time of trouble began then, fire and sword raging in the most and best part of *Germany*, not only casually, but by the arbitrement and will of such as used that devouring element, to the damage of those with whom they were at enmity.

FINIS.

A woman at
Crying Noth:
into you: vienna appeared
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 noe into you



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